

French farmers descend on Paris

PARIS (R) — Some 150,000 French farmers descended on Paris Sunday, handing out free wine, cheese and sausage in a colourful and largely peaceful protest against falling incomes and a flood of imports from Eastern Europe. Supported by the centre-right opposition, the farmers urged the Socialist government to resist European Community (EC) reforms which they said were forcing many of them off the land. "There are more than 150,000 of us today. If we can't get anywhere with that number, then it's certain death for farmers," said Alain Lebrun, one of 5,000 Eton dairy farmers who travelled into the capital in a convoy of buses. Agriculture Minister Louis Merle said on television he would ask the EC for permission to increase subsidies to cattle breeders, but particularly hard by East European competition. He said the protest would strengthen his hand in negotiations with EC partners over reform of the community's controversial agricultural policy. Fearing a repetition of the violence that has scarred rural France in the last few weeks, the government deployed some 10,000 police on the streets of the capital. Conservative leader Jacques Chirac had to dodge a bottle and several dead cows hurled by protesters who accused right-wing parties of exploiting the farmers' plight for political gain.



Jordan Times

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جوردان تيمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية (الراي)

Iran files environmental claim

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran has filed a claim with the United Nations for damage to its environment caused by the Gulf war, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported Sunday. Ramazan Ali Abedini, deputy head of the country's environment protection organisation, said it was difficult to assess the exact amount of losses incurred during the war between Iraq and the U.S.-led alliance that expelled it from Kuwait. The news agency said. It gave no estimate but said: "The war fought in January and February this year ended in the setting ablaze of over 700 Kuwaiti oil wells, an ecological disaster, which among other things has polluted and destroyed the rich marine life and crops in southern Iran." Mr. Abedini said Iranian environmental experts were in Kuwait City for a meeting on the destructive effects of the war on the Gulf region. He said the ministerial session of the Regional Organisation for Protection of the Marine Environment was to be held in the Kuwait capital in October. Iran is already in contact with the United Nations for estimating the environmental losses in the region, said Mr. Abedini. He added that a group of German ecologists was studying the pollution in the Gulf area, said the news agency.

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Iraq ready to export oil, but no decision on U.N. terms

BAGHDAD (R) — Oil Minister Usama Al Hiti said Sunday Iraq was ready to resume oil exports but gave no indication if it would accept U.N. conditions on such sales. Mr. Hiti was quoted by the Iraqi News Agency as confirming that Iraq was "ready to resume the exportation of oil and restore its commercial relations with its previous clients and restore its role in the international oil market." But he criticised U.N. resolutions which would not allow Baghdad direct access to the proceeds from the sales as an infringement of Iraq's sovereignty. The U.N. has approved the sale of \$1.6 billion worth of oil to allow Iraq to buy badly-needed food and medicines. But part of the proceeds will go to Iraq after war reparations and U.N. costs are deducted, and that money will be placed in an account under U.N. control. The U.N. also says it must monitor the distribution of food bought with the proceeds of the oil sale.

Polisario: Marchers threaten Sahara plan

ALGIERS (R) — The Polisario Front guerrilla movement has accused Morocco of threatening the Western Sahara peace plan by sending 30,000 of its citizens into the disputed former Spanish colony. Polisario, fighting for independence in its self-styled Saharawi Arab democratic republic, said the Moroccans had crossed the northern border of the territory between Sept. 23 and 28 and were heading for the town of Laayoun. The Moroccan government was "jeopardising the peace plan by instigating thousands of Moroccan marchers on Sahara towns," it said in a statement issued in Algiers. The people of the thinly-populated territory are to choose between independence, as demanded by Polisario, or union with Morocco, which controls most of the disputed area, in a referendum in January. Three weeks ago, the two sides agreed a ceasefire in the territory after 15 years of fighting.

Wolf ranks British as best spies

BONN (R) — Legendary East German spy master Markus Wolf, jailed by united Germany, ranked Britain's spies as the best among his former Western espionage foes, according to a magazine interview released Sunday. But Bonn's espionage efforts got poor marks from Mr. Wolf, whose agents riddled the West German political and defence establishment until their cover was blown by German unity last October. "Maybe the English were the best, these James Bonds, because they were the ones I knew the least about."

Savimbi arrives in Luanda

LUANDA (R) — Jonas Savimbi, leader of Angola's former rebel UNITA movement, returned to Luanda Sunday for the first time since the end of a 16-year civil war. Thousands of followers gave the charismatic guerrilla chief a tumultuous welcome as he arrived in the capital three months after a peace settlement. Mr. Savimbi reached Luanda airport Sunday morning after a tour of three southern cities — Huambo, Lubango and Lobito — where hundreds of thousands of people also turned out to greet him.

Algeria devalues dinar

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria Sunday announced a 22 per cent devaluation of the dinar from Sept. 30. The Algerian (central) Bank also announced it had raised inter-bank rates for loans to commercial banks by one percentage point to 11.5 per cent from October 1. The exchange rate before the announcement stood at 17.32 dinars to the dollar. The statement did not say what the new exchange rate would be. Algeria faces a debt crunch. It owes a total of \$25 billion, three quarters of it due by the end of 1993. Prime Minister Sidahmed Ghazali has said the debt is a disaster. The debt service ratio has risen to 69 per cent from 18 per cent in 1988.

Arafat says PNC has contributed positively, urges Arab coordination

Baker: Time not ripe yet for invitations to conference

Combined agency dispatches

PALESTINIAN leader Yasser Arafat Sunday described the decision of the Palestine National Council (PNC) to recommend Palestinian participation in the proposed Middle East peace conference as a positive contribution to the cause of the peace in the region. He also called for close coordination among the Arabs ahead of further moves prior to the proposed conference, which is scheduled to be held in October.

Mr. Arafat, president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), said in an interview with Radio Jordan that Jordan and the PLO were coordinating their positions. He said the PLO was also keen on coordinating positions with Egypt, Syria and Lebanon as well as all other Arab countries, "whether in the Gulf or in the Arab Maghreb (North Africa)."

"The Palestinians alone cannot confront the challenges without coordination with their Arab brethren in a comprehensive solution it is to be found for the Palestinian problem," said Mr. Arafat, speaking one day after the PNC recommended that Palestinians attend the October conference, co-sponsored by the United States and the Soviet Union.

"Any solution to the Palestinian problem should take into consideration the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people and the interests and national security of the Arab nation," added Mr. Arafat, who was re-elected president of Palestine and chairman of the PLO by the PNC session in Algiers.

Mr. Arafat said the priority for the PLO was to coordinate positions with the Arab countries before coordinating with the United States.

The Palestinian leader also called for an urgent Arab summit conference to "coordinate Arab positions, learning from past experiences so that the Arab World can confront the challenges facing it."

The PNC decision to endorse Palestinian participation in the peace conference, Mr. Arafat said, "gives a new momentum to the Palestinian uprising, which is the guarantee for a just peace."

He said the PLO had stressed the importance of Jerusalem and its status as the capital of the State of Palestine and renewed a call for a freeze in Israel's settlement activities in the occupied territories.

"The Israeli policy of building Jewish settlements in the occupied territories," Mr. Arafat said, "poses a danger not only to the Palestinian people but also to the entire Arab World."

In Algiers, Mr. Arafat said Saturday that "we want a peace of the brave, not capitulations. We will not make any obstacles to peace, but we reject the Israeli conditions."

Israel demands that no PLO members, and only Palestinians from the occupied West Bank or Gaza Strip take part in peace talks. It also insists that the PLO cannot announce the delegation.

"We are asking for the moon," Mr. Arafat said. "We are asking for what has been declared by (U.S. President George) Bush and (National Security Adviser Brent) Scowcroft, whom he quoted as saying Israeli settlements in the occupied territories are illegal."

"If they continue, this means there will be no land for peace," said the PLO leader.

"This question is not for me," Mr. Arafat said. "You have to ask Presidents Bush and (Mikhail) Gorbachev, the conference's co-chairmen: Do you want land for peace?"

Prime Minister Taher Masri said Saturday the PNC decision paved the way for forming a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the peace conference.

"Now we expect that some Palestinian delegates will visit Jordan soon... and we will work together on forming a joint delegation to the proposed peace conference," he said.

The PNC dropped key conditions for participating in the proposed conference, recommending that Palestinians attend in order to argue their case.

Palestinian legislators also dropped demands for a commitment to relinquish the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The council cast aside an insistence that the PLO actually

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Shamir hints at 'compromise,' but refuses to freeze settlement

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Sunday did not rule out compromise in proposed Arab-Israeli peace talks, but again refused to freeze settlement activity in the occupied territories.

He added that Israel would not participate in any peace talks that would force a solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the Jewish state.

If the Arabs expect negotiations to be "a kind of court attended... to get what they deserve according to one or another United Nations decision, they are completely mistaken," Mr. Shamir said on a special interview with Israel army radio.

"Negotiations between peoples is where the sides have to sit together and convince one another, in order to reach an agreement on those same issues that are being discussed," Mr. Shamir added, while not ruling out an Israeli compromise.

"It depends what the compromise is. It depends what we are talking about," Mr. Shamir said.

The peace talks are to be based on U.N. resolutions 242 and 338, which call on Israel to give up land occupied in the 1967 war in exchange for secure borders.

Israel contends the resolution does not require it give up all the land.

The United States has criticised a recent flurry of Jewish construction in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as an obstacle to proposed Arab-Israeli peace talks, asking Israel to halt the activity.

Mr. Shamir said Sunday freezing settlements before negotiations would be a "precondition" Israel firmly rejects.

"We have presented a principle. There are no negotiations with preconditions," Mr. Shamir said. "There are many demands we could make of the Arabs and we can bring them up during the negotiations. They, too, of course, can make demands of us, but these will be put on the negotiating table."

Meanwhile, Science Minister Yisrael Meir Mizruchi, of the nationalist Tehiya party, and Minister without Portfolio Rehavam Zeevi of the right-wing Moledet party met with Mr. Shamir to protest the peace process they say will force

Israel into undesirable concessions.

"The time has come for the government of Israel to take its head out of the sand," Mr. Meir told Israel Radio. "No doubt the noose is getting tighter."

In separate comments, Mr. Shamir said he doubted the United States could play the role of honest broker in bringing Israel and its Arab neighbours to the peace conference next month.

Mr. Shamir's most senior aide Yossi Ben-Aharon went even further. He called Washington "prejudiced" since President George Bush called on Congress this month to postpone vital loan guarantees to Israel until after the proposed talks.

"There has been a tilt toward the Arabs, no doubt," Mr. Ben-Aharon told Reuters in an interview.

Mr. Shamir said he believed a conference co-sponsored by Washington and Moscow would be held.

But asked by the newspaper Davar whether the United States could be an impartial mediator he

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Likud weighs early election

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's ruling Likud Party, under pressure from Washington and from Israelis, is discussing calling early elections — a move that could complicate Middle East peace efforts.

Sarah Doron, leader of the Likud parliamentary faction, announced Sunday the party was ready to consider advancing polls not due for another 14 months, Israel Radio said.

Government sources said Mr. Shamir might seek a mandate to stage off U.S. pressure for Israel to yield on peace issues.

He could also call elections if he lost the support of three hard-line coalition parties which ensure him a 66-54 seat parliamentary majority.

Mr. Shamir's top adviser Yossi Ben-Aharon dampened speculation about the government's imminent fall but acknowledged potential problems.

"There might be a break which will cause the dissolution of this government. But this is just an assessment at this point because we don't have any hard evidence that this is going to take place or when it is going to take place," he told Reuters.

The opposition Labour Party has called for a parliamentary no-confidence vote for next week, although it alone cannot bring down the government.

Some leading Labour members

accuse Mr. Shamir of trying to sabotage U.S. attempts to arrange Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Labour has said that if Mr. Shamir was sincere about supporting the U.S. peace drive it would vote to keep his government from falling in any far-right revolt.

Mr. Shamir's critics have long suspected he might call elections to avoid entering a peace conference which the United States, Israel's closest ally, hopes to convene within a month. His government is the most hardline in Israeli history.

But government sources said they expected the two-day conference to go ahead, though elections could be held as early as February, in the midst of proposed Arab-Israeli negotiations.

The Bush administration, to avoid alienating Arab states, has delayed considering Israel's request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees to help Soviet Jewish immigrants.

Washington has further hinted it will link the guarantees to a freeze on Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"What Bush did could boomerange," said a government source who spoke on condition he not be identified.

"I think there will be an opening conference lasting a day and a half, a photo opportunity. After

the photo opportunity there will be a crisis if they impose such constraints or a freeze on settlements."

The Bush administration has told Arab states and Palestinians it favours a peace deal based on the return of occupied Arab land. Likud insists the land ensures Israeli "security" and was given to the Jewish people by God.

The government source, reliable in forecasting previous political developments, said Mr. Shamir could call elections to strengthen his hand before negotiations get tough.

He said: "There is a feeling the negotiations will be very problematic and Israel will be pushed to the wall and so it's worthwhile to hold elections to strengthen Likud before it's too late."

Leaders of the far-right Tehiya, Tsomet and Moledet parties, whose seven seats assure Mr. Shamir a majority in the 120-member parliament, have told the government they are worried by the U.S. moves.

Mr. Shamir privately met Tehiya and Moledet leaders Sunday, and Moledet leader Rehavam Zeevi said he would not lead his two-man faction out of the government for now.

But many in Likud share the fears of the far right that as talks enter a crucial stage, Washington will pressure Israel to withdraw from occupied territories.



MILITARY EXERCISES: One of the units of the Special Forces Sunday carried out military manoeuvres using live ammunition and many kinds of weapons, tanks and personnel carriers. The exercises were attended by Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleh, who was briefed on the training programmes and level of expertise of the special forces by his commander. Senior officers of the Armed Forces also attended the exercises.

U.N. teams report full Iraqi compliance with demands

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — A U.N. nuclear weapon inspection team which spent four days confined in a Baghdad car park resumed its mission on Sunday without incident.

Iraq has also removed the last obstacle preventing U.N. experts from using their helicopters on inspection flights, U.N. officials said in Baghdad.

Alastair Livingston, field operations chief for the U.N. commission in charge of scrapping Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, said Iraq had given U.N. officials permission to use its Al Rasheed airfield in Baghdad as a helicopter base.

An advance party of ballistic missiles experts in Baghdad had asked leave for the helicopters, on loan from Germany and now in Turkey, to make the four-hour flight to Baghdad on Tuesday or Wednesday, he said.

Douglas England, head of the 21-member ballistic team, said Saturday they were delaying the start of their mission to supervise

destruction of Scud missile sites by two days to give time for the lingering row to be settled.

Mr. Livingston said the Iraqi go-ahead, given at noon on Sunday, would let the U.N. advance party finalise details of helicopter flights planned by ballistic inspectors due in Baghdad on Tuesday.

A senior official at the Foreign Ministry told the advance party they could use the VIP building at the Al Rasheed airfield — and they have requested permission for the helicopters to fly in on the 1st or the 2nd, he said.

The helicopters would be ready for use on inspection flights over Scud missile sites in Iraq's remote western region by Wednesday at the latest.

Mr. Livingston said U.N. nuclear inspectors now in Baghdad would return to Bahrain Monday and a biological weapons team would leave Iraq Wednesday.

Team leader David Kay said in Baghdad the nuclear group spent the day inspecting four locations

in the Baghdad area. He declined to identify the sites, saying they would be inspected further.

"It was another day of inspection, it went well. No problems," he added. "We had full access to all sites, no problems in copying documentation at all."

It was the first day that inspections by the 44-member group, which arrived in Baghdad a week ago, had not run into problems with Iraqi officials.

On Monday, it was held for five hours before documents it had seized were forcibly removed from its possession.

A similar confrontation began Tuesday and led to the group being penned in a car park refusing to yield the papers.

The standoff ended around dawn Saturday with the group permitted to keep further records it had taken provided a joint inventory was made with Iraqi officials.

That inventory was completed

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Algeria lifts state of siege

ALGIERS (AP) — The government Sunday lifted the four-month state of emergency imposed after bloody riots by Muslim fundamentalists forced the postponement of legislative elections.

The capital of the country appeared calm. There have been no signs of political disturbances for several weeks as the government and opposition try to reschedule the elections.

The government announced a week ago that the four-month state of emergency, which would have expired Oct. 5, would end at midnight Saturday.

President Chadli Bejdjed ordered the measures June 5 to quell violent agitation by the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), winner of local and provincial elections last year.

The emergency gave the military wide powers of arrest, and a curfew was imposed for a few weeks in Algiers.

The FIS contended that rules for the legislative elections had been rigged to favour the National Liberation Front (FLN), the Marxist party that has ruled Algeria since independence from France in 1962.

The fundamentalist party's top leaders, including President Abassi Madadi and Vice-President Ali Belhadj, were thrown into a military prison at Blida, outside Algiers.

They are charged with fomenting rebellion, which could theoretically bring the death penalty, and have been hospitalised after going on hunger strike Sept. 7.

The government says that 55 people were killed and 3,000 arrested during the state of emergency. The FIS and another groups claim 300 died and a much higher number were arrested.

The government has pledged to hold the elections before the end of the year. They would be the first multi-party legislative voting since independence.

The FLN was the sole legal party in Algeria before 1988.

Martens averts coalition collapse over arms deals

BRUSSELS (AP) — Less than four months before general elections, Prime Minister Wilfried Martens reshuffled his cabinet Sunday to prevent the fall of his centre-left coalition over arms sales to the Middle East.

The Flemish nationalist Volksunie Party was dropped from Mr. Martens' five-party coalition when it refused to back the arms sales, worth \$300 million, to Saudi Arabia and allied Middle East countries.

Mr. Martens announced the move after consulting with King Baudouin Sunday afternoon. At the same time, the arms sales were effectively approved.

In a bid to dispel any notion of crisis, the oew, stymied-down cabinet met Sunday afternoon to discuss Belgium's military operation in Zaire to help evacuate Belgians after last week's rioting there.

The new cabinet is made up of Socialists and Christian Democrats, split into Dutch and French-speaking camps, who hold 133 of the 212 legislative seats.

It will continue in office until the Jan. 19 elections. The two Volksunie ministers were replaced by two Dutch-speakers, a Christian Democrat and a Socialist.

That move ended a dispute that had lingered for weeks, splitting the cabinet along linguistic lines with Dutch-speaking parties opposing their Francophone partners over the Middle East deal.

The latter argued these were a lifeline for the ailing arms industry in Wallonia, Belgium's French-speaking southern half, and threatened to veto a \$1 billion government telecommunications

contract that will mostly benefit firms in Dutch-speaking Flanders.

Mr. Martens brokered a compromise making the government of Wallonia and Flanders, that already enjoy much autonomy in other areas, responsible for arms sales.

By dropping the Volksunie, a small party that sought more guarantees for Flemish autonomy under the compromise, the government lost its two-thirds majority in the parliament.

It needs that majority to widen the powers of the Flemish and Walloon governments to make Belgium a federal state.

Disputes between Belgium's 5.5 million Dutch-speakers and 4.5 million Francophones have caused the fall of many governments since World War II.

Belgium has had 35 governments since 1944. Mr. Martens himself has led eight since 1979.

Officials said he must now rely on opposition support, notably from the conservatives, to get a two-thirds majority for changing the constitution and devolving powers to Flanders and Wallonia.

Leading to Sunday's cabinet reshuffle were contracts worth 10.6 billion francs (\$303 million) for Mideast clients, including Saudi Arabia, Oman and the United Arab Emirates, of Belgian arms maker FNN Herstal.

The Liege-area company cannot close the deal unless it gets export licences. "Without the licences the normal financing of the company... is no longer possible," FNN said Friday.

It added over 1,000 jobs were at stake if the arms deal fell through.

The Economist

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Hrawi home with U.S. 'pledge' on Israeli presence

BEIRUT (Agencies) — President Elias Hrawi returned home Sunday after talks with President George Bush during which he won a pledge on implementation of the U.N. resolution calling for an Israeli pullout from South Lebanon, officials said.

Mr. Hrawi conferred with Mr. Bush, Arab and European officials during an eight-day visit to the United Nations in New York where he addressed the General Assembly.

Prime Minister Omar Karami, who accompanied Mr. Hrawi, told reporters the trip had achieved its goals and "was very successful".

The talks concentrated on implementing the 13-year-old Security Council Resolution 425 stipulating an unconditional and comprehensive pullout of Israeli troops from a border enclave it runs as a "security zone" in south Lebanon.

The Lebanese leaders met Mr. Bush last Tuesday and urged him to guarantee an unconditional Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. Officials said Mr. Hrawi managed to obtain "a pledge" from the Bush administration that Resolution 425 was negotiable and should be implemented without linkage to the planned U.S.-brokered Middle East peace conference.

Lebanon has said it will attend the conference, which is expected to convene next month, but has been attempting to disengage im-

plementation of Resolution 425 from the discussions.

Foreign Minister Faris Bouze remained in New York for talks with Arab, European and U.S. officials on formation of a Lebanese reconstruction fund.

Creation of the fund was stipulated in the Arab-sponsored Taif peace pact that ended Lebanon's 15 years of civil war.

Prime Minister Karami said Washington had agreed to the implementation of Resolution 425 whether or not the peace conference takes place next month.

The resolution, adopted in 1978 after a brief Israeli incursion into South Lebanon, rejects any armed presence in the south except that of Lebanese government forces.

However, Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982, and after a three-year occupation it withdrew the bulk of its forces from the country but carved out the so-called "security zone".

In his speech to the U.N. General Assembly this week, Mr. Hrawi called on Israel to pull its troops out of the border strip so that his government could consolidate the civil war peace accord and regain its sovereignty over the land.

Israel has refused to relinquish the 1,100-square-kilometre zone as long as Syrian troops remain deployed in Lebanon and Iranian-backed and Palestinian guerrillas maintain bases in the south.

U.N. team in Kuwait to survey border

KUWAIT CITY (Agencies) — A 10-man United Nations team arrived in Kuwait Sunday to carry out a land survey of the desert border between Iraq and Kuwait, a U.N. official said.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the group would present its findings to a five-man commission that has been established by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to demarcate the border.

The official declined further comment on the mission of the team.

The border, drawn up after World War I, is difficult to draw because there are few landmarks in the sand and both sides define it differently.

An aerial survey of the frontier was carried out by the commission in July.

Several cross-border incursions, mainly by smugglers and scavengers looking for weapons and ammunition left by Iraqi troops, have been reported by U.N. and Kuwaiti officials in recent weeks.

At least nine Iraqis have been killed and 22 injured in the past two weeks while picking up the leftover weapons, according to the U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) which patrols the demilitarised zone between the two countries.

Diplomats in Kuwait said Iraq would be obliged to recognise the border marked by the commission.

"The task of the commission will probably prove to be very difficult. It will be a long process of negotiating between the Iraqis and the Kuwaitis to reach a border accepted by both," one Western diplomat quoted by Reuters said.

"But once marked Iraq will have under the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire to accept the border," he added.

Kuwait has accused Iraq of delaying the work of the U.N. commission.

Iraq has never accepted a boundary approved by the Arab League in 1962 after it claimed that Kuwait was part of Iraq. It has also laid claim to Bubiyan and Warba islands.

U.N. officials said marking the border would also help control a thriving trade in arms, ammunition and alcohol between Iraqis and Kuwaitis.

UNIKOM says it has no authority to stop civilians illegally crossing the border.

Fraser: Effective end to Iraqis' problems only with implementation of U.N. resolutions

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — There cannot be any effective solution to the problems of the Iraqi people until the United Nations Security Council resolutions relevant to the Gulf crisis are implemented and the situation returns to normal in terms of Iraq's relations with the outside world, former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser said Sunday.

Mr. Fraser, who spent three days in Iraq over the weekend in his capacity as president of CARE International which is extending relief assistance to the Iraqi people, conceded that the process of implementing the U.N. resolutions was not easy.

"I am under no illusion that the process between Iraq and the U.N. of implementing the resolutions will be speedy," he said, carefully avoiding any comment which could be construed as having any political bearing.

But, he said, "I was told by the Iraqi government that it

will have the resources to meet the needs of the Iraqi people once the international sanctions are lifted."

The sanctions were imposed by the Security Council following the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Technically, the sanctions could be lifted once Iraq complies with all the terms contained in the ceasefire in the Gulf war, which ended Iraq's occupation of Kuwait in February, but the U.S. and Britain have said that most of the sanctions will remain in place as long as Iraqi President Saddam Hussein remains in power.

The implementation of the U.N. resolutions is indeed ahead, but there is no sight of a comprehensive solution to heal the rift in Iraq's external relations.

The sanctions have been related to allow the supply of food and medicine to Iraq, but Baghdad does not have the funds to procure its needs since it cannot export its oil. Furthermore, the industrial sector has been crippled either as a result of bombing during the war or of the

scarcity of raw material to operate them.

Mr. Fraser said that while CARE was not attaching any timeframe for its relief programme in Iraq, the organisation will scale down its operations once the "situation is normal".

He noted that CARE had also extended relief aid to the Shiites and Kurds who fled their failed rebellions against the government following the Gulf war and crossed over to Turkey and Iran. "Most of them have now returned to Iraq," Mr. Fraser said, but added that a CARE programme in the northern Iraqi Kurdish town of Sulaimaniyah was continuing.

Mr. Fraser said CARE was extending help to the residents of the southern Iraqi town of Najaf in the form of nutrition programmes for children under the age of five. He said he saw distinct signs of severe malnutrition among the children of the town, whose woes were aggravated by the Shiite rebellion.

Government-supplied rationed food meets only 50

per cent of the nutritional requirements of the town's residents, and the rest has to come from the market at skyrocketing prices, he said.

"The poor simply cannot afford to buy food at such high prices," noted Mr. Fraser, whose organisation is working in close cooperation with the Iraqi authorities and the Federation of Iraqi Women.

The CARE programme includes extending food aid to 30,000 Iraqi children under the age of five, Mr. Fraser told the Jordan Times in an interview in Amman shortly before his departure for Brussels.

Among the officials Mr. Fraser met during his Sept. 26-28 stay in Iraq were Prime Minister Mohammad Ali Zubeidi, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ali Al Shabab and Minister of Trade Saleh Mahdi.

Mr. Fraser said he understood "certain technicalities" remained to be sorted out before Iraq could begin limited oil exports worth \$1.6 billion endorsed by the Sanctions Committee of the



Malcolm Fraser

Security Council.

The former prime minister side-stepped a question whether he thought the approved amount was enough to meet the immediate needs of the Iraqi people by saying "there are provisions in the related resolution to increase the amount" that could go Iraq "from the proceeds of the oil sales, which will be controlled by a special panel set by the U.N."

Independent experts estimate that less than half the amount raised through the oil exports will reach the Iraqi people in the form of food and medicine, the rest being appropriated for war reparations and U.N. costs incurred to monitor and implement the ceasefire terms.

West had nuclear arms ready during Gulf war — Swede

STOCKHOLM (R) — The U.S.-led alliance in the Gulf war had nuclear and chemical weapons prepared for use if provoked by Iraq, a Swedish liaison officer said in an interview published Friday.

Army Major Persson, liaison officer between a Swedish field hospital in Saudi Arabia and allied forces, told the national daily Svenska Dagbladet he had seen official guidelines about the use of nuclear weapons.

The document said allied warships without chemical weapons aboard were allowed, as a last resort, to defend themselves with nuclear weapons against a chemical attack, he said. "It exposed to the world, they would be allowed to use the worst there was such an order, I saw it," Maj. Persson said.

The alliance consistently declined to comment on whether it had nuclear or chemical weapons in place during the war to oust Iraq from Kuwait.

Maj. Persson said he had also seen a 200-page document regulating use of chemical weapons.

"I had it in my hand, it was the real thing... the alliance did not estimate that it would be necessary to escalate the conflict with chemical weapons, but there was room to do so if necessary," Maj. Persson said.

The document, he said, appeared to be a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) order for a chemical arms counter-attack which had been revised with detailed instructions for Operation Desert Storm, the official name of the offensive to liberate Kuwait.

Maj. Persson, citing unnamed British and U.S. sources he met during the war, said Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was informed through various channels that the allied arsenal included both chemical and nuclear weapons.

The objective was to deter Iraq from using its own chemical arsenal. "They told me: 'You can rest assured that Saddam Hussein knows what we can do,'" Maj. Persson said, citing military and diplomatic sources.

CIA director hearings to lift veil on U.S. intelligence reports

WASHINGTON (R) — Some key U.S. intelligence reports of the 1980s to be unveiled this week could spell trouble for Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director-designate Robert Gates in his Senate confirmation hearings.

Mr. Gates, having put much of his Iran-contra problems behind him, now faces another hurdle — allegations that he stifled CIA dissent and shaped intelligence to suit his bosses' conservative political agenda.

Among documents likely to be released on Tuesday, when public hearings resume before the Senate Intelligence Committee, are a May 1985 inter-agency "estimate" that laid the groundwork for secret U.S. arms sales to Iran later that year.

In the Iran-contra affair, the biggest scandal of the administration of President Ronald Reagan, profits from the sales secretly went to arm U.S.-backed contra rebels in Nicaragua.

Several former colleagues from the CIA have accused Mr. Gates, then head of the National Intelligence Council, of fiddling with that estimate and others to provide a rationale for a pre-determined administration policy.

Tunisia says plot to kill Ben Ali foiled

TUNIS (Agencies) — The government said Saturday it has uncovered a plot by an outlawed Muslim fundamentalist group to assassinate President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali and then attempt to seize power.

Interior Minister Abdallah Kallal, addressing a political meeting, said militants of the Al Nahda movement had drawn up a "diabolic" three-stage plan to shoot down Mr. Ben Ali's plane, create a power vacuum, then move to form a provisional fundamentalist regime.

Mr. Kallal, without specifying how the purported scheme was foiled, said the plotters first planned to assassinate Mr. Ben Ali, four senior cabinet ministers, and a top parliamentary leader.

The next step, he said, was to announce formation of a provisional government that would include Al Nahda leaders and some dissident politicians from outside the movement.

Finally, the plotters intended to create chaos through such tactics as sabotaging water and electricity networks and disrupting transportation, while engaging in guerrilla warfare, Mr. Kallal said.

The interior minister said the plot was being orchestrated from Algiers by Al Nahda's exiled leaders, Rashid Ghannouchi and Mohammad Ben Salem.

The plotters initially planned to stage a suicide attack on Mr. Ben Ali's motorcade during one of his local outings, Mr. Kallal said.

He said this was abandoned in favour of a plan to blow up the presidential airplane in mid-flight, using a shoulder-fired missile furnished by fundamentalist guerrillas in Afghanistan.

Mr. Kallal made no mention of any arrests in connection with the plot, but said security forces had seized an arms cache south of Tunis containing weapons believed intended for assassination attempts.

The government accused the Al Nahda last May of plotting to seize power and set up an Islamic state. Security forces arrested nearly 300 members, including 100 army men. Al Nahda denied the charge.

Mulroney: U.N. may have to fight Iraq again

WASHINGTON (R) — Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney said Saturday it was probably just a matter of time before the United Nations would have to use force against Iraq again for flouting international authority.

"I expect it's just a matter of time before we have to deal with (Iraq) again. Anybody who doubts the authority of the United Nations Security Council should be dealt with," Mr. Mulroney spoke from Stanford University in California, where he was visiting. Canada was part of the international alliance that fought in the Gulf war last January and February to drive Iraqi forces from Kuwait. ("Iraq" apparently has not learned (its) lesson from the 15th of January," Mr. Mulroney said. Iraq was attacked the following day after it ignored a U.N. deadline to leave Kuwait.

Fire in pine woods in north Lebanon

TRIPOLI (AP) — Fires believed touched off by a heat wave gutted pine forests and cherry groves in northern Lebanon on Saturday, police said. Clergymen blared appeals through loudspeakers from mosques, minarets and church bells tolled through the Kobeyyat province, urging citizens to help Syrian and Lebanese army troops to combat the blaze. ("Police" said the fire broke after nightfall Friday and was raging unabated 24 hours later, although three Syrian fire brigades crossed the border to help three Lebanese firefighting teams put down the flames. As the hoses of fire engines doused the burning forests with water, hundreds of villagers rushed to help with buckets filled from their wells.

Lebanon files home nationals from Zaire

BEIRUT (R) — Hundreds of Lebanese nationals fleeing unrest in Zaire returned to Beirut Sunday on a special cut-price charter flight run by Lebanon's flag carrier, Middle East Airlines (MEA), officials said. The flight was one of several organised at the request of the 8,000-strong Lebanese business community in Zaire, where riots against the rule of President Mobutu Sese Seko, and looting have ravaged major towns. The officials said 404 people arrived Sunday from Brazzaville, the capital of Congo, where they had fled to avoid the unrest. A similar flight on Saturday carried 483 people, including two wounded. A third flight was expected to evacuate more Lebanese on Monday.

Kabul says guerrilla attacks increasing

ISLAMABAD (R) — An Afghan military chief said rebels were stepping up their rocket attacks on cities and accused Pakistan of increasing its arms supplies to the guerrillas despite moves to end the 13-year-old civil war. The official Bakhtar news agency Saturday quoted armed forces Chief of General Staff Asad Delawar as saying the guerrillas had increased their attacks on cities including Qalat and Gardez and some parts of Nangarhar province. Guerrillas fired six rockets into the capital Kabul on Saturday, killing three civilians, Kabul Radio said. Bakhtar monitored in the Pakistani capital Islamabad, quoted Gen. Delawar as saying Kabul's military doctrine was defensive, but added: "If the enemies of our people continue their attacks and resort to invasions... the armed forces will give them a jarring breaking reply."

Clocks back on winter time in Cyprus

NICOSIA (AP) — Clocks were moved back an hour at midnight, marking the end of the summer season's daylight saving time. The new time as of Sunday puts Cyprus two hours ahead of GMT.

River crossing puts Palestinian dreams in perspective

By Sami Aboudi
Reuter

KING HUSSEIN BRIDGE — Five-year-old Walid and his twin sister Lubna initiated their mother. They took off their shoes, raised their arms and turned around ready to be searched.

The children, both ticklish, giggled as the Israeli woman soldier frisked them but could not understand why they had to hand over a ping pong ball.

"Why did they take away the ball?" Lubna asked.

The United States, the Soviet Union, Israel and its Arab neighbours may have given a flip to Palestinian dreams of their own homeland with their talk of convening a Middle East peace conference.

But at the River Jordan bridges, the Palestinians' only direct link between their homes in the Israeli-occupied territories and the outside world, there are many poignant reminders that on the ground nothing has changed.

Crossing from the West Bank to Jordan requires weeks of requests — Palestinians under 35 need a special permit — and a 305 shekel (\$120) fee.

The return over the two bridges since the 1967 war means hours of humiliating searches.

What could be a 90-minute drive between occupied Jerusalem and Amman can take an entire day.

But for Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank amid a 45-month-old revolt, entering Jordan is like being released from a long prison sentence.

Amman may only be 40 kilometres away, but the identity checks, sound of firearms and Israeli curfew announcements are quickly forgotten.

For three weeks in Jordan, my wife and four children enjoyed the forgotten pleasures of amusement parks, song festivals and night strolls.

Thousands of Palestinians cross the rickety one-lane bridge every day to see relatives or for business under an Israeli agreement with Jordan known as the open-border policy.

There is no search by Jordanian officials in the town of Shunna but travellers wait for more than two hours in humid heat to get passports stamped and find a seat on the bus that ferries them to the Israeli-held side.

The Israeli flags fluttering over military fortifications in the blazing sun mark the return to life under occupation.

The bridge vibrates under the weight of the bus. On the Israeli side, its passengers disembark under a huge eucalyptus tree to hand over their return permits. Those without them may not enter.

Dozens of men and women Israeli conscripts search luggage piece by piece, looking for weapons, then take it to be assessed for import duty.

Pens, brushes, cameras and toys were among items we were not allowed to take in — one rarely gets an explanation.

A corridor leads into a hall where uniformed police prepare documents. The air-conditioned hall has toilets and running water but after three hours under Israeli scrutiny, the children were tired, hungry and bored.

Finally, our names were called over loudspeakers and we started the physical searches.

We deposited our money in a locked box until we left, which left the Israelis keep an eye on how much flows into the West Bank.

Those with more than JD 2,000 must sign a declaration that they did not receive it from the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Israeli troops used to make people strip, but travellers now just lower their pants as an electronic device scans them.

Most young Palestinians are also questioned by Israeli secret service agents.

Exactly nine hours after leaving Amman — and after five and a half hours of Israeli checking — we finally stuffed our belongings into the suitcases and were on our way home.

Radio Jordan 77411
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 515615
Electric Power 606381
RJ Flight Information 06-53300
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53300

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Hanna Mansour 748364

Dr. Ghaleb Zawahreh 736123

Dr. Joseph Issa 776550

Dr. Mohammed Hanna 741444

Fish pharmacy 651912

Ferdous pharmacy 778336

Al Azma pharmacy 637055

Nazoukhi pharmacy 623672

Al Salem pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644965

Shamsi pharmacy 637660

Min./Max. temp. 18/34

Agaba 24/37

Deserts 17/37

Jordan Valley 23/37

Yesterday's high temperatures: Am-

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

man 33, Agaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 35 per cent, Agaba 25 per cent.

Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 630341

Rescue 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891226

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 63821

Hotel Complaints 638900

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 897467

Complaints 787111

Telephone Information 121

(Directory assistance) 010230

Overseas Calls 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773113

Radio Jordan 77411

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 515615

Electric Power 606381

RJ Flight Information 06-53300

Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53300

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 81381332

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 6428156

Abdali Maternity, J. Amn. 6424412

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malhas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine 6647174

Shamsi Hospital 669131

University Hospital 645845

Al-Masdar Hospital 6672279

The Islamic, Abdali 66612737

Al-Ahli, Abdali 6611646

Basim, Al-Mahajreen 7770103

Al-Basim, J. Ashraf 77511126

Amy, Marita 89161175

Queen Alia Hospital 6224930

Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09983323

Zarqa National Hospital 09905560

Ras Sina Hospital 09987732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital 09990990

BEIRUT:

Princess Bezan Hospital 02272555

Greek Catholic Hospital 02222275

Ras Al Nabtes Hospital 02247100

AQABA:

CARE International official discusses prospects for further aid to Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Possibilities are strong for international supplementation of Canadian assistance programme to help Jordanian children, particularly in the wake of the return home of hundreds of thousands of expatriates from Kuwait and other Gulf states, former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser said Sunday.

Mr. Fraser, who discussed the issue with Her Royal Highness Princess Basma — chairperson of the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) — in his capacity as president of CARE International, said he would pursue the matter further with the donor governments of the Brussels-based relief organisation.

Mr. Fraser said it was premature to discuss any definite amount, the nature of assistance or any timeframe for the proposal to materialise. "It all depends on individual governments" to whom he will be making representations, he said.

The Canadian counterpart in the programme under discussion is CARE Canada. Mr. Fraser explained that he was seeking to supplement the programme with assistance from the national CARE organisations in various countries — notably Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Australia, Japan and others.

The CARE Canada programme involves offering supplementary food — dry rations — to 2,500 children in Jordan, according to Nabil Anshasi, a spokesman for the Canadian embassy in Amman. He said QAF centres in various governorates will identify the most needy and administer the programme. He could not provide any figure for the cost of the programme and Mr. Fraser declined to discuss specifics in his interview with the Jordan Times.

The former prime minister said there was an increased awareness that Jordan was in need of urgent assistance to

help it cope with the massive flow of returnees and expressed hope that CARE International assistance will be forthcoming to the Kingdom.

However, he said, "relief funds are hard to come by these days," particularly because CARE had extended massive assistance to cyclone-hit Bangladesh this year and to help refugees from Iran in Turkey and Iran as well as in Iraq following the failed Kurdish and Shiite rebellions in that country.

Australia, he said, "is a small country in terms of people and resources," and is doing what it could in terms of assistance to the needy around the world. Australia was focusing more on the countries near to it in the Far East in extending aid, he said.

Mr. Fraser, who arrived here from Iraq and left for Brussels Sunday, said he would like to "see a permanent CARE presence in Jordan," but added that it was only in idea and concept and that there had been decisions on

the issue.

The veteran Australian politician said his country was highly appreciative of "the constructive and positive role played by Jordan in Middle Eastern politics." He expressed hope that the ongoing Middle East peace process would bear fruit so that the countries in the region can live in peace and stability and give more attention to economic development and progress.

His Majesty King Hussein met with Mr. Fraser last week as the Australian labour leader was on his way to Iraq to review CARE programmes there.

Representatives of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and several ministers also held talks with Mr. Fraser last week.

CARE International was set up originally after World War II as an American organisation — Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere — before becoming a world institution offering relief assistance to needy developing countries.

Germany donates vehicles to help Kingdom fight illicit trafficking

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Sunday took delivery of three vehicles that came as a gift from Germany to help Jordanian police deal with contraband activities and forgeries.

A statement from the PSD said that Department Director Fadel Ali received from German Ambassador to Jordan Heinrich Reimers the three vehicles, which are specially equipped to help police combat drug trafficking and counterfeit activities.

The statement said that the German gift was made in support of PSD's continued endeavours to fight all forms of smuggling at the regional and international levels.

Maj. Gen. Ali expressed the Jordanian government's deep appreciation to Germany for this valuable gift. He said that cooperation between the two sides in this regard reflects the strong friendly ties between the German and Jordanian people.

Germany in 1988 supplied the PSD with specially equipped helicopters to help it control drug trafficking in the desert regions and the border areas.

Coinciding with the announcement, the Customs Department announced that its officers seized two kilograms of opium and



Public Security Department Director Fadel Ali meets with Heinrich Reimers, German ambassador to Jordan. The German government donated

three vehicles to the PSD to help it fight trafficking in the country (Petra photo).

half a million captagon pills along with other illicit materials. A department spokesman was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as saying that in the last two months customs officers at Ramtha border post near

the Syrian-Jordanian border have seized the illicit merchandise hidden in secret compartments of cars entering Jordan.

He said that the following were seized in a number of cases: 15,400 drug pills, two kilos of

opium, 200 grammes of heroin, 110 grammes of hashish, 87 gold chains weighing 435 grammes, 910 grammes of gold dust, 1,388 grammes of gold, 705 wrist watches and half a million captagon pills.

Health Ministry to hire additional doctors and staff for expanding hospitals

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Health Ministry has spent more than JD 13 million on expanding and enlarging hospitals in Salt, Mafrq, Tafleh and Amman and has made special allocations in the 1992 fiscal year to employ an additional 1,003 doctors and health workers to cope with the services resulting from such expansion, according to Dr. Mustafa Al Barmawi, director of Hospital Affairs at the Health Ministry.

The enlarged facilities are Al Hussein Hospital in Salt, the government hospital in Mafrq, Al Bashir Hospital in Amman and the Tafleh government hospital, Dr. Barmawi said.

He said that the enlargements, which have been completed, cost JD 8.35 million and the ministry is in the process of supplying them with equipment at the estimated cost of JD 5 million.

The enlargements have made it necessary to hire doctors, specialists, nurses, paramedics, midwives and other health workers.

Dr. Barmawi also announced a Ministry of Health decision to offer nursing training courses at Jordanian hospitals. He said that the programme is expected to start in November when 250 male and female trainees will be accepted in the training centres at hospitals.

Dr. Barmawi said that students wishing to join these courses, which will last for 18 months, can apply directly to the Health Ministry.

After graduation, an assistant nurse is certain to be appointed to work for government hospitals and health centres, he said.

Dr. Barmawi also announced a Health Ministry decision to start building the infrastructure of the new Karak Hospital which will be financed by the Italian Government at a later stage.

He said that the Health Ministry has plans to build hospitals in Ruseifa and Deir Abu Said in 1992.

Minister asks UNCHS to help address Jordan's housing problems

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Public Works and Housing Saad Hayel Al Srouf Sunday called on the United Nations to contribute towards solving Jordan's housing problem resulting from the influx of thousands of returnees.

In a letter addressed to the executive director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS), Mr. Srouf said that the negative impact of the influx of returnees on Jordan is posing a genuine problem to the country and is placing pressures on the services needed to cater to the large number of returnees, including water, transportation and energy.

He said that preliminary estimates of capital investments in the housing sector, including costs of providing health services, transport, water and sanitation, amount to \$3.7 billion in addition to some \$4.5 billion needed to maintain the same standard of services for the next five years.

The minister's letter said that preliminary statistics show a 10 per cent increase in Jordan's population as a result of the Gulf crisis, in addition to a 3.5 per cent natural increase resulting from population growth.

The minister requested that his letter be circulated to member states of the UNCHS.

Journalism symposium discusses manipulation of press during war and in occupied territories

AMMAN (J.T.) — An international seminar on news coverage in war time being held at Amman Plaza Hotel discussed Sunday two working papers entitled "Lies in the Desert" and "Palestinian Journalists Under Occupation."

The first paper, submitted by two American participants, shed light on the manipulation of news and facts during the Gulf war and the Panama invasion on the part of the U.S. official information services. The American administration had concluded agreements with the major television networks in the United States in advance of the war on the way news should be covered in a manner that would suit the U.S. objectives, the paper said.

Despite the agreement, the paper said each news report had to be censored by the military, which never allowed journalists to conduct individual investigations or reporting and insisted that journalists be moved in groups and be given specific information approved by the allied forces command.

The journalists sometimes complained about the way they were treated and the information given them but to no avail, the paper noted.

The paper focused attention on the fact that the attacking forces and the air raids in the Gulf war were directed at civilian positions in Iraq as the documents and the facts revealed after the war, but nothing of this kind was reported by the press and television networks during the war itself.

Disclosures after the war showed that 70 per cent of the bombs dropped on Iraq had missed their military targets, the paper added.

The other paper on the journalists work in the occupied Arab territories referred to the repressive measures and harassments to which the Palestinians as well as foreign journalists were subjected not only during the war but also during the intifada and throughout the occupation, which started in 1967.

The paper, prepared by the League of Arab Journalists in the Occupied Palestinian Land, said that strict military censorship continues in news coverage and foreign journalists are allowed to

report very little about the facts. The Palestinian newspapers have to submit all their features or news coverage or other reports to the military censor in order to get approval before anything can be published, the paper said.

The military authorities normally impose heavy penalties on journalists, newspapers and magazines if they publish anything considered unacceptable.

It said the Israelis ban the publication of Palestinian culture or other materials that can enhance the Palestinian people's steadfastness or advocate human rights causes. Most Palestinian journalists are exposed to interrogation and arrest when their reports are not in favour of the Israeli government's views.

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Aqaba tourist season begins with first plane load from Scandinavia

AQABA (J.T.) — The winter tourist season has started in Aqaba with the arrival at the winter resort Sunday of 100 Finnish and other Scandinavian tourists on board a Royal Jordanian (RJ) aircraft.

The group, who arrived in Aqaba on a direct flight from Helsinki for a weeklong stay to visit tourist and archaeological sites in Jordan, is the first such group to arrive in the country after the Gulf war.

George Bawab, the director of the Near East Tourist Agency (NET) — which organised the trip — said tourist groups will be arriving in Aqaba from Helsinki twice a week starting next month.

He attributed the revival of the Scandinavian tourist group programme to a visit to Finland last June by Her Majesty Queen Noor and the ongoing efforts exerted by the Tourism Ministry in cooperation with private sector offices in Jordan.

Earlier this month, Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Al Kabasiti revealed at a meeting with tourist offices that his ministry was launching a wide scale campaign to promote Jordan and is enlisting the assistance of local and foreign tour operators to ensure its success.

The campaign will be mainly directed in Europe with particular attention to the Scandinavian countries, Germany, Italy and Spain, according to ministry officials.

Ministry Secretary General Nasri Atallah said that the Scandinavian tourists have been coming in groups to Aqaba for the past five years and the coming winter season will witness a resurgence of tourist activities with visitors coming from various areas.

During the Gulf crisis, he said, tourism to Aqaba was reduced to zero but it is hoped that the resurgence of tourist activity will be resumed soon.

Upon their arrival, the tourists were welcomed by Ministry of Tourism officials in Aqaba.



ACADEMIC WELCOME — University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharabeh Sunday had an open meeting with university students and discussed with them issues of concern to them and answered some of their queries. Dr. Gharabeh stressed the importance of studying by regulations and restrictions and called on the students to be one team while at the university. Dr. Gharabeh, who was appointed university president recently, urged students to conduct constructive dialogue in a democratic atmosphere that allows the exchange of ideas.

The university's administration, he said, is currently considering several changes in the registration process to ease the students suffering at the beginning of each term. In another development in Karak, Mata University President Awad Khalafat met Sunday with newly admitted students at the university. Dr. Khalafat briefed the students on the establishment and the development of the university. He said the university is planning to expand in the near future and will start implementing the second stage of the university project soon.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of water colour paintings by Charles Foster-Hill at the British Council.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Marwan Al'Alwan at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artists Mohammad Hussein Jali (copper engraving) and Sahib Al Yassiri (ceramics) at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Jamel Abad Al'Fall at Yarmouk University.

FILM

- ★ French film entitled "Le Magellique" at the French Cultural Centre — 8 p.m.



HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN POTASH PRODUCTION EXPANSION CORRECTION

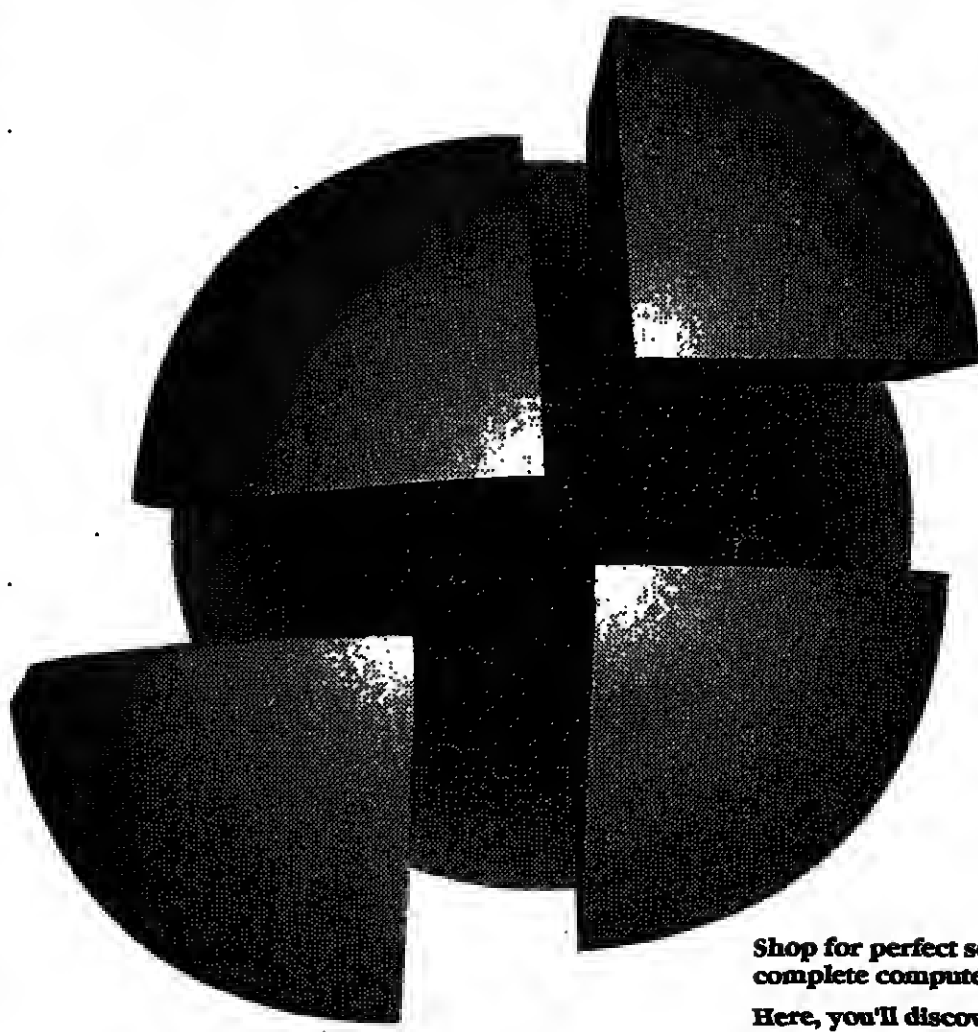
The Jordan Times Sunday published an advertisement for the Potash Production Expansion Project, No. 30-4857 (APC-25-80), giving inaccurate fax numbers for the project's site and the Amman H.Q. The correct fax numbers are: 962-3-377125 - 962-3-674416. The Jordan Times regrets the error.

CORRECTION

Because of a reporting error, o Jordan Times article on Sunday about local Arab-American Anti-Discrimination activities incorrectly stated that the children's march would take place on Oct. 13. The actual day of the march is

Oct. 11. Also, the painting exhibition is not being done in coordination with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) as was reported. The Jordan Times regrets the errors.

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Weekly Political Pulse

Palestinians gamble on peace

By Waleed Sadi

THE middle course adopted by the Palestine National Council (PNC) at its milestone Algiers conference shows beyond a shadow of doubt that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has come of age at last. As the old saying goes, once bitten, twice shy, the Palestinians have been repeatedly bitten in the past, notably on the occasion of the United Nations partition plan for Palestine. Now they decided to be shy and stay aloof from abstract objectives that brought them one disaster after the other. By "conditionally" accepting to take part in the impending peace conference on the Middle East, the PLO has in effect signalled their asset to play ball under the prevailing imperfect conditions. This Palestinian position is no different from the positions of the other parties to the Arab-Israeli conflicts, especially Israel, which is still insisting on receiving a memorandum of understanding before responding to the expected invitation to attend the peace talks. In fact, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is counting on a "letter of assurance" from Washington before he would bother to nod approvingly to the conference idea. If this is not a conditional acceptance, one does not know what is.

This new Palestinian perception about the peace prospects has obviously emerged not only from a sophisticated realisation and appreciation of the new regional and international developments but also from their bitter experience about lost opportunities. The Palestinian counterview, opposing the "moderate" concessions in

favour of the peace process, appears to be espoused by political dinosaurs that belong to a bygone era. By clinging to the notion that military struggle against Israel is still a viable option, the so-called extremist forces within the Palestinian ranks exemplify a fossilised perception that could not withstand the test of time in the past and is less likely to do so in the future, given the rise of a new international order from the ashes of the old international political structure.

What remains to be seen is whether and how Tel Aviv would respond to this new Palestinian thinking and perspective. The odds are that Israel would not react in-kind to the new Palestinian orientation and most probably would do everything under the sun to sabotage or derail it. The Zionist strategy had always counted on a set of factors among which is a continued Palestinian rejection of taking Israel to task and putting its true intentions to test under international scrutiny and surveillance.

This time around, the PLO has demonstrated quite clearly that it has learnt from past errors of judgment and has decided to call Israel's bluff once and for all. Maybe the Palestinians would not emerge victorious from the peace conference and perhaps they would not attain their minimum national aspirations, but they would at least expose Israel to the maximum and lay to rest all false protestations that it was the Palestinians who prevented the

achievement of durable and just peace all along.

How the PLO can cash in on such a political triumph is something else. Washington and the rest of the major capitals may still not be able to deliver on their repeated pledge to attain honourable peace terms for the Palestinians if they only join the peace process. Israel's hold on the decision-making process in most of the countries that help shape the course of the so-called new order is so strong that they might not be able to liberate themselves enough to come to the Palestinian rescue in spite of heavy Palestinian investment in the peace process.

Still in the long term the Palestinians would come out ahead by first showing their own people and the peoples of the other Arab countries that they have acted in good faith and have left no stone unturned in order to gain permanent peace with justice. Winning the public opinion battle would revitalise the Palestinians with stronger than ever determination to pursue their legitimate goals. The other Arab peoples' sympathy and solidarity would also grow stronger and more effective than ever in the wake of the failed Palestinian efforts to sue for peace for themselves and the other peoples of the region. Internationally, the peoples and governments of the world would likewise rise to the new challenges brought about by the Israeli stubbornness and defiance of all reasonable peace overtures from the Palestinian and other Arab sides.

The people's choice

THE TALK about an imminent cabinet reshuffle has picked up momentum as the date for convening a peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict fast approaches. The Palestine National Council's (PNC) affirmative response to the impending peace talks has also accelerated the peace process and made inevitable that all the parties to the prospective negotiations get into the right gear for the historic change. After a long and sometimes acrimonious debate, the Palestinian house is back in order now and should be ready and able to participate effectively in the U.S.-led efforts for peace. It is only natural therefore that Jordan also undergo some change, like a reshuffle in the cabinet, in order to give the government of Prime Minister Taher Masi a clearer perception and a stronger mandate on how to proceed when the time comes for negotiating peace on behalf of the country. All the current cabinet ministers whether from the Arab nationalist groups or the Arab National Democratic Alliance or others who feel that the proposed peace parley runs counter to their beliefs or interests have every right to express their views and to do what their conscience dictates to them. No one expected that our country will be totally monolithic on such a momentous occasion as indeed none of the other parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict is fully behind the decision to give peace in the region a chance. But as some of us in this part of the world have democratic rights so must a national verdict on fundamental policy issues be taken by democratic means.

The greater majority of Jordanians, especially the silent ones, are openly in favour of waging peace under unique circumstances that promise an active American involvement in the quest for a durable and just peace and stability in the Middle East. Never had the Palestinian conflict or the broader Arab-Israeli conflict enjoyed such an American official support to the peace initiative as is the case now. Granted that the ultimate purposes and intents of President George Bush and his administration can never be completely assessed with precision at this point in time. Nevertheless the parties to the projected peace negotiations have enough positive signals to go on given the unprecedented bold and courageous posture of the American president on the issue of regional peace.

Jordan needs and is entitled to have a strong and united government that has the strength of its convictions. In many ways, such a cabinet would be a government of extraordinary times bordering on a national salvation government.

In the final analysis any peace treaty that may emerge from the anticipated peace negotiations between Jordan and Israel should be submitted to the two houses of Parliament for scrutiny and approval or rejection as the representatives of the people would deem proper. But as the negotiating process is expected to be a long and drawn out exercise, the people of Jordan would have by the end of such negotiations another occasion to elect their new representatives to the new parliament on the basis of the ensuing national debate over the issue of peace in the area and others. The people of Jordan deserve a chance to make their voice heard on this matter when the time arrives.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily discussed Israel's reaction to the Palestine National Council's approval of the U.S.-sponsored peace process and said that the Israeli government's cool response came as no surprise to any one. The Israelis have been hoping that the Palestinians will not accept the U.S. plan and have been declaring publicly that no PLO representatives would be allowed to participate in the peace process, the paper noted. But, it said, the Palestinian response disappointed the Israelis who had hoped that a "no" answer would save them the trouble of having to negotiate with the Arabs over the occupied territories and the question of permanent peace. The Israelis have also been launching propaganda campaigns against Jordanian-Palestinian joint action, trying to draw a wedge between the two sides in the hope that the Palestinians would eventually reject Jordan's efforts for a joint umbrella for the peace negotiations, the paper noted. It said that again the Israelis are disappointed since nothing of this kind is going to happen simply because Jordan has repeatedly announced that the Palestinians would have to deal with their own issues with the Israelis once the conference got under way. Jordan, said the paper, will continue to offer support for the Palestinian people, to help them regain their rights, and will continue to play a very positive role to help the establishment of peace.

A columnist to Al Ra'i daily criticised the Telecommunications Corporation's public telephone services and said that the number 121, which is supposed to answer calls by members of the public seeking a telephone number, never satisfies the callers. People turn to number 121 at the central telephone exchange installed by the corporation in order to find out telephone numbers of people and organisations which are not listed in the 1987 telephone directory, said Nazli. The writer said that since 1987 many changes were introduced to telephone lines and new telephones were installed and therefore it is impossible to find telephone numbers in the 1987 telephone books. He said that 121 is supposed to offer the service to the public efficiently and promptly; otherwise new phone books should be issued with all the numbers. The writer said that the Telecommunications Corporation which is usually quick to disconnect telephone lines when subscribers delay payment of their bills, also has a duty to maintain its services to the subscribers and the public in general. He suggested that the corporation increase the number of employees because obviously those in charge of the service are insufficient; else it must cancel this service to the public altogether after openly declaring its failure to cope with this task.

Poll: Most Soviets want Jews out

MOSCOW — More than half the Soviet people want all Jews to leave the country, according to a poll released this week at the first international conference on anti-Semitism ever held in the Soviet Union.

More than ten per cent of those polled said all Jews should be moved to the Far East, and more than half believe the fight against Zionism should be strengthened. The two-day conference was organised as a parallel activity of the month-long meeting of the 38-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which monitors compliance with the Helsinki accords on human rights.

The poll backs up a conclusion of more than a dozen speakers at the conference — anti-Semitism is becoming rampant as the country moves from communism to democracy.

"It's not the totalitarian anti-Semitism which we're used to and which was hypocritical. Now, it is open anti-Semitism," said Dr. Michael Chlenov, co-president of the Va'ad, the confederation of Soviet Jewish organisations and communities which sponsored the conference.

"Like Nazism, this open anti-Semitism is spreading around the Russian Federation in large cities, though, in other republics we see the totalitarian anti-Semitism which we know very well," he said.

Viadimir Shapiro, a professor at the Institute of Sociology in Moscow and head of the Jewish Scientific Centre which conducted the poll, said the results indicate that anti-Semitism has reached "a very alarming" level.

He said 4,200 people were surveyed in 10 Soviet cities last October. It included about 25 Jews.

Mark Krasnoselsky, who coordinates the monitoring of anti-Semitism in the Soviet media, said attacks have increased, with between 50 and 70 publications in Moscow alone preaching hatred

of Jews.

A neo-Nazi movement "which wants to drive out all the Jews" is emerging in the Soviet Union. Unlike other European states, there are no laws banning such organisations, he said.

"All this has brought about a situation which endangers the life of Jews," Mr. Krasnoselsky said. "Many have been forced to leave by this hatred."

Mr. Shapiro said two smaller polls show a Jewish community fearing a new wave of pogroms.

Some 39 per cent of the Jewish leaders polled in January thought pogroms were possible in the near future, compared with 48 per cent in December 1989. And 31 per cent of Moscow Jews polled in June and July foresaw the possibility of a pogrom by the year's end.

"The extreme Russian right blames the Jews for bringing about communism, and the old communist left blames the Jews for bringing about the downfall of communism."

In the poll of 4,200 mainly non-Jews, only 14 per cent expected pogroms.

"We are seeing reminders of what happened in fascist Germany," said Yuri Sokol, speaking on behalf of Soviet Jewish veterans and victims of ghettos and concentration camps. "The next step is pogroms."

He said Jews are being blamed for everything, including the country's serious economic problems and widespread food shortages.

Irwin Cotler, a Canadian Jew-

ish leader and law professor at McGill University, added: "The extreme Russian right blames the Jews for bringing about communism, and the old communist left blames the Jews for bringing about the downfall of communism."

Many non-Jews believe the departure of the Jews will give them a better life, Mr. Shapiro said.

Even though thousands of Soviet Jews are emigrating, fighting anti-Semitism is important for the thousands remaining behind in the big cities and the Muslim-dominated Central Asian republics, which are quickly becoming independent. Said Soviet attorney David Akselbant.

Mark Batunsky, a Soviet Islamic expert, said the Central Asian republics will soon choose between Turkish-style democratic government and Iranian-style fundamentalism, and he urged Western nations to take an active interest in the outcome.

Arab countries are attempting "to become their patrons," and this could worsen the already difficult position of Jews living in those republics, he said.

Officials in the predominantly Muslim republic of Azerbaijan have denied accusations that they recently reinstated restrictions on Jews seeking to emigrate. "We do not intend to hinder them or other nationalities from going abroad," Azerbaijan spokesman Manaf Agayev told the TASS news agency.

Some 200 academics, scholars and leaders of Jewish organisations from all over the world are attending the conference, the first of its kind in the Soviet Union. Debora Lipstadt, an author and professor of Jewish history at Occidental College in California, called it historic.

"For Israelis to participate shows how far we have come in the last three or four years," added Myra Shiohama, director of Soviet and East European affairs for the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, (AP)

Allied warplanes, troops would face problems in Iraq

By Charles Aldinger
Reuters

WASHINGTON — U.S. and allied forces would face tactical and political problems in carrying out any order to protect U.N. arms inspectors in Iraq — and Baghdad knows it, according to military analysts.

Experts interviewed on Wednesday also said they doubted President George Bush and Western-Arab alliance leaders would quickly resort to anything as drastic as pre-emptive air or cruise missile strikes at Iraqi arms or communications targets to back up demands for unrestricted U.N. weapons' inspections.

"Orders to aircraft and troops sent to protect inspectors and to enforce access to nuclear and chemical plants will be couched in 'ifs, ands, or buts'," said James Blackwell of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

"I wouldn't want to be a Pentagon planner right now. What do you do to help inspectors?" Mr. Blackwell asked. "Do you tell an army sergeant to shoot an Iraqi soldier standing in the door barring access to nuclear secrets?"

Former U.S. Assistant Defence Secretary Lawrence Korb said cruise missiles or bombing strikes by U.S. Stealth fighters, British Jaguars and French Mirage jets could destroy virtually all of Iraq's remaining nuclear capability and wipe out its military command and control centres.

"But that's a very thorny political step early on. And intrusive ground inspections are a must sooner or later anyway," said Mr. Korb, now with the Brookings Institution.

The problem for the West, according to former U.S. Defence Secretary Harold Brown and others, is that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is aware of the political difficulty in ordering air strikes against his war-damaged country and the tactical problems in putting a protective helicopter and jet fighter umbrella over U.N. inspectors.

Escorting the U.N. inspectors appears to be a more appealing initial step than air strikes, said Mr. Brown, now a senior official at the Johns Hopkins Foreign Policy Institute.

Experts agreed none of the alternatives was inviting despite a warning on Wednesday by General Colin Powell, chairman

of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, that Washington had a "rather significant air capability" near Iraq left over from the six-week war to oust Iraqi occupiers from Kuwait.

Marvio Feuerwerker of the Washington-based Institute for Middle East Policy said it would be difficult to order helicopter gunships or jets to strafe merely "because an undisciplined Iraqi fires his rifle near a U.N. inspection team."

"I think this slow escalation of threats by the West probably gains something in the cat-and-mouse game with Iraq," Mr. Feuerwerker said.

"But unless Iraq allows intrusive ground inspections and unless there's a change in the leadership or the thrust in Baghdad, it looks like people could be killed before long."

One U.S. defence official conceded privately that the Pentagon was reluctant to become a "police force" for U.N. inspectors in Iraq.

"The problem is that you will have people on the ground and in the air faced with situations and quick decisions that can't be anticipated up front, especially if the Iraqis keep dragging their heels," the official said.

Baltic independence revives Polish-Lithuanian tension

By Alister Doyle
Reuters

SALCININKAI — Centuries-old tensions between Lithuanians and Poles, hidden during five decades of Soviet rule, have stirred again since the Baltic republic won back its independence this month.

People in Polish-dominated towns like Salcininkai, where a two-metre high statue of Lenin still stands on the main street, fear loss of Moscow's protection could make them second-class citizens in the new nation.

Polish President Lech Walesa wrote to Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis this month expressing concern about the treatment of Poles. Mr. Landsbergis this week accused Polish media of mounting "a strange propaganda campaign" against Lithuania.

"We're afraid for the future," said Jan Szamel, a 35-year-old Polish resident of Salcininkai, a town of 5,000 which was part of Poland between the two world wars but was swallowed by the Soviet Union in 1940.

"During the independence campaign, we heard slogans like 'Lithuania for the Lithuanians,' so we understood we are not needed here," he said.

The Lithuanian government has disbanded the Polish-dominated councils in Salcininkai and the district around the capital Vilnius, accusing them of working with hardline communists in Moscow.

It also dissolved a Russian council on similar charges of publicly supporting last month's coup attempt against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

"This isn't a conflict between Lithuanians and Poles. This is between Lithuanians and com-

munist," said parliamentary spokesman Andrius Azubalis. "It's unfortunate that a lot of communists are Poles, Russians and other nationalities."

With Baltic neighbours Latvia and Estonia, Lithuania won independence this month from Moscow, 51 years after the three were incorporated into the Soviet Union by Stalin.

Poles make up seven per cent of Lithuania's 3.7 million population and Russians nine per cent. But more than 80 per cent of Salcininkai's residents are Poles.

The government has removed the Polish and Russian council leaders and imposed Lithuanian administrators for up to a year. In that time, new elections are due to be held but no date has been fixed.

"When the elections are held, maybe they'll elect all these former communists. Okay, that's fine, but they'll have to respect our laws," Mr. Azubalis said. Lithuania, like several other Soviet republics, has banned the Communist Party.

"We want to have Polish leaders, not Lithuanian ones. Lithuanians are the leaders everywhere now," said Tadeusz Stanul, 27, a Polish resident.

Many in the newly independent Baltic states resent Russians as colonists who came after 1940.

Lithuania and Poland have a long history of conflict, although the two were united as a single kingdom for hundreds of years from 1387. At that time they formed the biggest country in Europe.

The two countries fought a brief war in 1920 over their rival claims to the city of Vilnius.

Foreign nations, including the United States, have called on the Baltic nations to respect human rights of minorities as they move towards democracy and market

economies.

Lithuania, where 80 per cent of residents are ethnic Lithuanians, has granted citizenship to everyone living in the republic in November 1989.

Latvia and Estonia, with larger proportions of immigrants, face a tougher debate on citizenship.

"I feel I am Polish," said Franck Gramackij, born in Salcininkai in 1930. Since then, the town has been under Polish, German, Soviet and now Lithuanian rule.

"No one knows if things will be better than under Soviet rule. Not much has changed yet."

Other Poles expressed fears they might lose jobs or that Polish-language schools, opened only a few years ago, would be shut down.

The Polish flag, which used to fly over the communist-ruled council building, has been replaced by Lithuania's red, yellow and green flag.

Eugenijus Petrovas, head of the Lithuanian parliament's investigation into the councils, said two Lithuanian local authorities were also dissolved earlier this year for ignoring Lithuania's declaration of independence.

After Lithuania declared independence, he said, the Polish councils continued to operate under Soviet law, took part in a Soviet referendum banned by Lithuania and backed the August coup attempt.

Despite political problems, many residents of Salcininkai, Lithuania's poorest region, expressed greater concern about shortages.

"We went to the shop to buy bread, but there was none," said Janina Stalimene, 57, a Lithuanian woman married to a Pole. "Socialism didn't work so we'll try capitalism instead."

Mongolian Muslims dream of independence

By James Kyne
Reuters

OLGIY — Drawn by a dream of nationhood for the Soviet Republic of Kazakhstan, thousands of Kazakhs in neighbouring Mongolia are packing up their nomadic tents and emigrating to the fatherland.

Mongolia's government is doing nothing to stop the Kazakhs, the country's biggest but little-loved ethnic minority, from leaving.

On the contrary, it is handing out 1,000 tugrik (\$25) to every emigre as goodwill for the journey across the mountains of Central Asia, a remote land of nomads, snow leopards and wolves' tales of the abominable snowman.

"Everyone is leaving," said Murat Uatkhon, a Kazakh businessman in Olgiy, a sleepy capital of the northwestern province of Bayan Olgiy where most of Mongolia's 130,000 Kazakhs live. The province borders the Soviet Union and China.

Kazakhs speak a Turkic language unrelated to Mongolian. They look more Turkic than Asian and adhere to Islam, a faith frowned upon by the predominantly Buddhist Mongolians.

"When you meet people on the street these days, they don't ask 'how are you,' but 'when are you going,'" Mr. Uatkhon said. "We are Kazakhs, we must go."

Local officials said the migration started slowly earlier this

year after Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev announced that homecoming foreign Kazakhs would be granted residence.

They said the exodus had surged since the failed coup in the Soviet Union enhanced Kazakh dreams of an independent state bigger than Western Europe and armed with nuclear weapons.

Mr. Uatkhon, who is also a member of Kazakhstan's democratic movement Azat, said the emigration would help boost the numbers of Kazakhs in Kazakhstan to a majority over Russians and other ethnic groups.

"There will be an election on the issue of independence and if Kazakhs are a majority, we will win it," he said.

Figures on how many have left Mongolia differ widely. The official Mongolian news agency Montsame has said some 2,000 families have already left but unofficial estimates in Olgiy ranged as high as 30,000 emigrants as of mid-September.

Shalyn Jalmyhaa, a Kazakh official in the state-run Mongolian writers' association, said in a recent interview he thought most Mongolian Kazakhs would leave in the next few years.

While nationalistic emotions were seducing Kazakhs away from Mongolia, a deepening economic crisis here was also helping to drive them out, he said.

"There is bad unemployment in Bayan Olgiy. It is a poor life

here and many Kazakhs feel there is no future," Mr. Jalmyhaa said.

Crisis had descended on Mongolia this year as the Soviet Union, which had bolstered it as one of its satellites for the last 70 years, slashed vital supplies of oil, spare parts and loans.

Olgiy appeared badly hit. Cows drifted along the main street, the city's hotel had run out of bread, and the "central shop" displayed almost nothing but fishing tackle, Chinese incense and biscuits.

Even a market for private entrepreneurs was quiet, except for a hunter trying to sell a snow leopard's pelt to foreigners for \$500 — more than the average Mongolian earns in a year.

Perhaps the only centre of purposeful activity was near the main square where queues of haulage trucks destined for Kazakhstan were being loaded with personal belongings, including fur-lined coats, furniture and nomad's tents called yurts.

Some people around the square said they would travel by truck the more than 1,000 kilometres to Kazakhstan. Others said they would go by plane via Mongolia's capital Ulan Bator.

Mr. Uatkhon said Mongolian Kazakhs, particularly nomadic herders, would be especially welcome in Kazakhstan because they are considered culturally purer than Soviet Kazakhs or those living in the far western Chinese region of Xinjiang.

NC contributed positively

(Continued from page 1)

source the full composition of Palestinian delegation. But it stated that the PLO has a right to choose Palestinian representatives to the talks.

Jordan has said it was willing to be in the joint delegation, if the PLO accepted. But it has stressed that Jordanians will not speak on behalf of Palestinians.

J.S. Secretary of State James Baker welcomed the Palestinian delegation but said he was still not ready to issue invitations to meeting.

"We still have some things that have to be done in order to be assured that all of the parties are really ready to come to the table," he told reporters today.

"Any time we see support for a prospect of trying to create a peace process in the Middle East, we're very glad to see that," said Baker, in New York for a series of meetings around the UN General Assembly.

He said Palestinians, particularly those living in the Israeli-occupied territories, had the most gain from a viable peace process and the most to lose if there was not one.

Mr. Baker, who has seen key Middle Eastern officials in New York this week, may return to the UN soon. State Department officials said he was not planning to meet Palestinian leaders in Washington.

N. teams report Iraqi compliance

(Continued from page 1)

Monday evening and Mr. Kay said all those documents had now been flown out of the country. He said the documents gave insight into evidence of Iraq's enrichment overseas of nuclear materials and knowledge and an intense view into "the actual weapons development side of the program."

They consisted of 5,000 pages of records, 19 hours of videotapes and 3,000 photographs. The Baghdad Observer said in editorial on Sunday that Mr. Kay had "a far different goal than informing of the technical details of Iraqi nuclear installations."

It said he was the sole leader of

next week, though such a meeting could not be ruled out.

The Hearst news service, in a report Saturday by foreign editor John Wallach, said Mr. Bush and Mr. Gorbachev have tentative plans to launch the Middle East peace conference in the Hague in late October or early November.

Mr. Wallach said his source was a senior administration official who asked not to be identified. He quoted the official as saying no invitations to the meeting will be issued until Mr. Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin visit the Middle East in coming weeks.

White House officials travelling with Mr. Bush on a weekend trip to Sea Island, Georgia, said they had no information about the report. But they said Mr. Bush was already scheduled to visit the Hague on Nov. 9 after a two-day North Atlantic Treaty Organisation meeting in Rome.

Mr. Baker said Israel and the Arabs still had not agreed to final terms for the conference. "I am not going to make any predictions," Mr. Baker told reporters. "I think we still have things that have to be done in order to be assured that all of the parties are ready."

Mr. Baker said negotiations could produce some form of "self-rule" and, ultimately, a permanent settlement.

"You know," he said, "we've been saying for some time that we think that there is an opportunity here, an opportunity really for all."

Morocco harnesses the rains

IN the countries of the Mediterranean's southern belt, especially northwest Africa, the environment has been severely affected by successive droughts at the beginning of the 1980s. But the return of the rains does not necessarily mean prosperity — on the contrary.

The soil of these semi-arid, often mountainous, regions deteriorates rapidly under the lash of sporadic and violent rainstorms, vegetation becomes scarce and agricultural activities including stock-breeding, become more and more precarious.

These factors have played an important role in the trend toward the depopulation of areas which are usually far from urban centres and lack means of communication and essential services.

It is against this perilous decline, the source of serious regional disparities, that Morocco has decided to act. This country has long experience in harnessing hydraulic resources and the big dams constructed earlier fully proved their usefulness during the 1980-84 drought. From 1984, it launched an ambitious programme of medium-sized dam construction covering the sub-Atlas geographical crescent from Oudjda in the north to Ouarzazate in the south.

In building dams of various dimensions — some medium-sized structures ranging from 30 to 60 metres high, smaller ones from 10 to 30 metres — the initiators of the programme are trying to attain a variety of combined objectives such as protection against floods and a better utilisation of surface waters for irrigation and other uses. One thousand million cubic metres of water can thus be salvaged to benefit irrigated areas of 15 to 800 hectares downstream from the dams.

The dams also help to replenish the underground water table, to increase the longevity of the big dams by combating silting, to produce electricity locally and to help settle the rural population by raising its living standards. Materials available on the spot or nearby are used primarily in their construction: dams are made of earth, stone or cylindrical concrete. Their construction should also help reduce unemployment and underemployment by promoting, as much as possible, the employment and vocational training of the local population. For this reason labour-intensive rather than highly mechanised construction methods are chosen.

"Each structure mobilises on average nearly 1,000 persons for a period of six months," explains Jamal Mahfoud, chief of the Medium-sized Dams Division of Hydraulic Administration. "Many people who come to the construction site without any prior qualification finish the work having gained good practical experience and even some elementary theoretical knowledge in trades such as cement framing, masonry or machine operation."

The daily wage of 40 to 60 dirhams paid to the workers enables them to supplement their income from agricultural work and to buy basic necessities.

Since 1989, at the initiative and under the responsibility of the national promotion services, the implementation of a vast complementary programme has begun along the same lines. It aims to create a large number of lakes by building small dams from five to 10 metres high. The operation is providing work and incomes to large numbers of the unemployed.

At the request of the Moroccan authorities, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) recently collaborated in an evaluation of the effectiveness of the methods and technologies used, in searching ways to improve workforce management, and in producing a synthesis of the Moroccan experience with a view to possible applications in other countries.

Various consultancy missions have made a thorough diagnosis of several construction sites and confirm the validity of the approach used, both in terms of the quality of construction and the level of employment and training of the workers. In 24 of the 25 construction sites which were analysed, expenditure on labour was by far the largest item in the budget, often reaching and sometimes even exceeding 50 per cent of the total. Labour productivity is proving very satisfactory, although the productivity of the supervisory and services personnel could be improved.

The ILO has also helped to create a computerised tool for the management of the construction sites. This system makes it possible to calculate productivity, to determine the required technological standards and to control the progress of the work as well as the costs. Shortfalls can be detected and corrected very rapidly.

In all, 46 medium-sized dams had been built by the end of 1990, accompanied by numerous works upstream and downstream such as wells, tree plantations and boundaries.

The Moroccan experience has proved positive on all points and has inspired similar operations in other Arab and African countries. A seminar organised in Rabat under the aegis of the Islamic Development Bank has already contributed to the dissemination of Moroccan know-how in this field — ILO Information.

Construction work under progress at the Oudjda Dam in Morocco (Photo ILO)

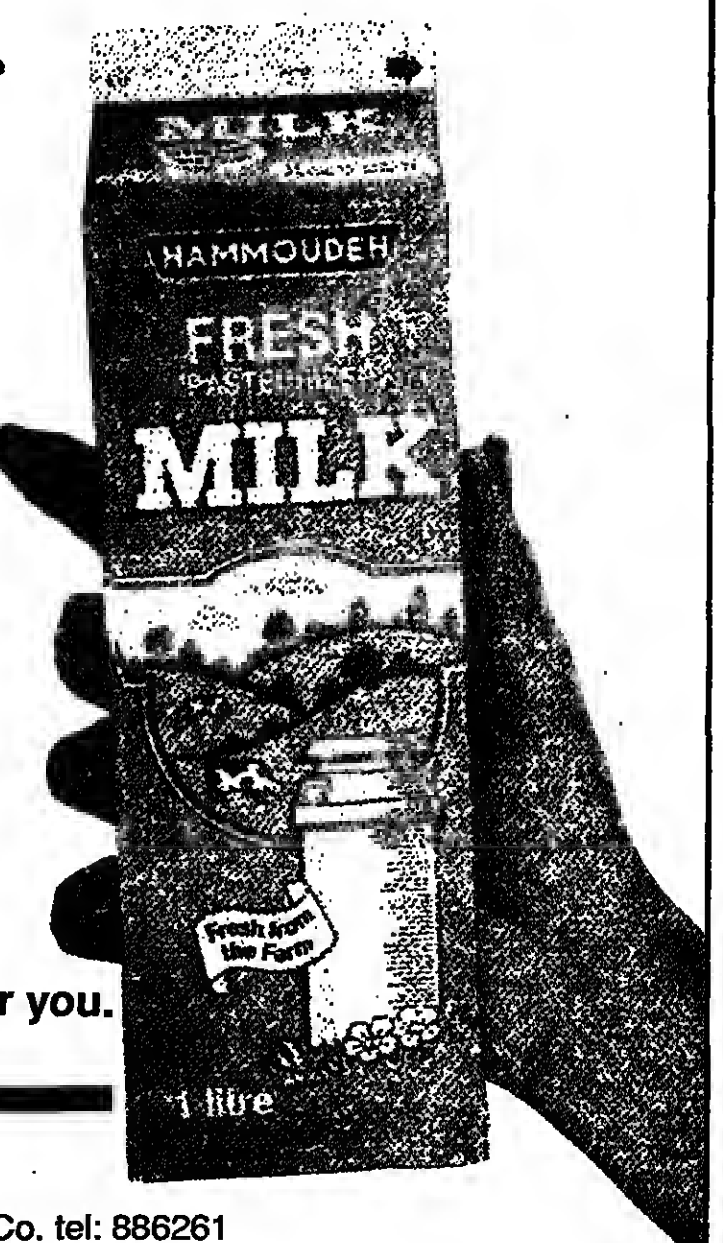
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Hamir hints at 'compromise,' but no freeze in settlements

(Continued from page 1)

"I have many doubts if it will be able to fulfill this task because of its recent behaviour and there is no better candidate."

Mr. Bush and his Secretary of State James Baker want to capitalise on the Gulf war shake-up in the Middle East and waning Soviet influence to try to end the 17-year-old Arab-Israeli conflict.

Apparently undaunted by the powerful U.S. lobby, Mr. Bush has threatened to use Washington's immense financial muscle over the Jewish state.

U.S. officials have linked the granting of \$10 billion in loan guarantees to house an influx of Jewish refugees in occupied land which Mr. Bush sees as a major obstacle to peace.

"This link between the economic and political is unfortunate," Mr. Ben-Aharon said. "It is not conducive either to (U.S.-Israeli) relations or to the peace process."

"We hope we won't be facing any more American pressure... or demands that we can't accede to."

Mr. Ben-Aharon stopped short of saying the U.S. had blown its role of honest broker "because so much depends on the feeling of both sides that in spite of these obstacles there is an inherent interest in achieving some results for the benefit of both sides and that sometimes supersedes even bungling by outside factors."

He said Israel was still working with U.S. officials on the assumption that it would attend the peace conference but he was not sure what the talks would achieve.

"I would say that we are not very optimistic because of the trend that has taken place over the last few weeks," he said. "Arab expectations have unfortunately been fed by the outside world including the United States."

"It affects our attitude to the process because if we know that

we have unfettered direct bilateral negotiations without preconditions with the Arab states this is one thing.

"But if we see that they are fettered, that they are encumbered with various attitudes from the United States that are leading the Arab states to higher expectations of Israeli concessions and that the U.S. role as serving as a neutral catalyst is prejudiced, hampered by American decisions, then of course our attitude will be influenced accordingly."

Mr. Baker is expected to return to the Middle East next month for the eighth time since March to issue invitations to the conference. The date and venue have not been announced.

Israel has agreed to attend provided it has a veto over the make-up of the Palestinian delegation in order to exclude members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Asked to comment on a declaration Saturday by the Palestine National Council (PNC) backing

the peace process Mr. Ben-Aharon said: "The PLO in our eyes is irrelevant."

He called leading West Bank activists Faisal Al Hussini and Hassan Ashrawi, who have led the Palestinian team in talks with Mr. Baker, "clones" of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. Israel would not accept them at the peace talks, he said.

In response to allegations that Mr. Hussini and Dr. Ashrawi went to Algeria for talks with PLO officials, right-wing legislators have called for them to be banned from returning here or for their imprisonment.

But senior government sources told Haaretz newspaper that police would not go hard on Mr. Hussini and Dr. Ashrawi in order to prevent friction with the United States.

Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan, of the two-seat Tsomet Party, withdrew his support for the peace plan Saturday, accusing the Americans of favouring the Arab positions.

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Mansell keeps title hopes alive with Spanish Grand Prix win

BARCELONA (R) — Briton Nigel Mansell kept alive his hopes of winning the World Drivers' Championship when he won Sunday's Spanish Grand Prix and championship leader Ayrton Senna came home fifth.

Mansell, in a Williams, finished the 65-lap race 11.331 seconds ahead of Alain Prost in a Ferrari. Mansell's Williams team mate, Italian Riccardo Patrese, finished third ahead of Frenchman Jean Alesi in the second Ferrari, Senna in a McLaren, and German Michael Schumacher who came sixth for Benetton.

Mansell's win cut Senna's lead in the Drivers' Championship from 24 points to 16 with two races remaining — in Japan next month and Australia on Nov. 3.

The Briton's victory was the 21st of his career and came in his 163rd Grand Prix.

"It was a win against the odds and in extraordinary circumstances on an overcast and often wet day at the new circuit de Catalunya."

The race began in wet conditions and was incident-packed with all the drivers going into the pits for new tyres as they switched from their wet rubber to slicks.

The Williams team managed to avoid repeating their problems of the previous week in Estoril when Mansell was disqualified after a disastrous pit stop and appeared third ahead of Frenchman Jean Alesi in the second Ferrari, Senna in a McLaren, and German Michael Schumacher who came sixth for Benetton.

Senna took over the lead in the 11th lap. He was passed by teammate Gerhard Berger the next lap and my Mansell the following lap as a brief rain fell and wet the track again.

Senna spun out on the 14th lap but recovered in less than five seconds to get back in the race, dropping to seventh.

He worked his way back up to third after Berger went out but was pushed down to fourth and fifth when Patrese and Alesi eventually passed him.

Alesi was given a penalty for incorrect behaviour at the start and was brought in and held up for 10 seconds by the marshals during the race. He went out and did the fastest lap of the race.

Senna won F-1 titles in 1988 and 1990 with McLaren-Honda in bitter revivals with Alain Prost of France, a three-time champion. Prost drove for McLaren until switching to Ferrari last year.

Last year, Prost won the Spanish Grand Prix when it was held at Jerez. It was his and Ferrari's last victory.



Nigel Mansell driving his Williams-Renault car

McEnroe beats Connors in Basle tennis semis

BASLE, Switzerland (R) — An eagerly-awaited semifinal between American veterans John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors proved a heavy disappointment at the Swiss Indoor Tennis Tournament Saturday.

Defending champion McEnroe ran away with the match, thrashing Connors 6-1, 6-3 to reach the final of the \$750,000 event, where he will play Swiss Jakob Hasek.

Eight-seeded McEnroe, 32, needed just 78 minutes to finish off Connors who astonished the tennis world by reaching the semifinals of the U.S. Open at the age of 39 last month.

Hasek, seeded sixth, earned his final spot the hard way by having to fight through three tiebreaks to beat seventh seed Alexander Volkov of the Soviet Union 7-6, 6-7, 7-6.

A 9,000-strong capacity crowd saw only flashes of vintage tennis as McEnroe dominated the match against Connors.

Connors failed to hold his service in the first set but broke McEnroe in the fifth game.

Wright makes most of Arsenal league debut

LONDON (R) — When Ian Wright joined English League champions Arsenal Monday, Manager George Graham warned the striker he could take nothing for granted.

Although Graham had paid a club record fee for Crystal Palace's 27-year-old England international, Wright was told he might have to wait to get in the first team.

Five days later and Wright has proved there are still some things well worth betting on.

One of them is his ability to get goals.

He scored on his club debut against second division Leicester in a League Cup tie Wednesday — his place secured by the absence of injured England striker Alan Smith.

Graham was doubly delighted Saturday when Wright celebrated his league debut for Arsenal at Southampton with a hat-trick.

Wright only made the team because Kevin Campbell was rested amid Arsenal's highly demanding schedule which resumes with the European Cup trip to Vienna next week when the new signing is ineligible.

Graham said after the 4-0 win over struggling Southampton: "You pay top money for top players. Wright looks sharp, his finishing was clinical."

The manager added: "It's exciting to be top scorers (in the division) and we're looking for even more."

The result took Arsenal to fourth place in the first division, nine points behind runaway leaders Manchester United who won 2-1 at Tottenham Hotspur.

Wright, a Londoner discovered by Palace six years ago while playing non-league soccer, needed no convincing he had made the right move.

"I could easily have stayed at Palace — they offered me a good deal to stay," he said. "But I turned it down because I wanted to come to a big club and sample the big club atmosphere. I thought that would bring out the best in me."

His best friend in soccer is Arsenal midfielder David Rocastle and their partnership was clearly a promising one Saturday with Rocastle snapping up the opening goal.

A week before his transfer, Wright had hit the headlines for threatening to report Palace Chairman Ron Noades to a race relations board for remarks about coloured players.

Now, as far as the tabloid press is concerned, it is "the Wright stuff" on the field that makes the news.

Until the hat-trick, Manchester United's match at Spurs had looked like being the highlight of the weekend.

Although it took veteran midfielder Bryan Robson to provide the late goal that secured United's eighth win in 10 league matches, Spurs Manager Peter Shreeves saluted a club that looks capable of winning the title they last held in 1967.

"On the strength of that, United must have a chance of the championship. And if that's so, then we won't be far behind," he said despite his evident disappointment in defeat.

Liverpool manager Graeme Souness was more amazed than saddened by the split personality shown by his team in their 1-1 home draw with Sheffield Wednesday.

"You saw our best and worst performance of the season in the same match. We did very well at first but from the first kick to the last in the second half, we never got going," he said.

The result left the Merseysiders in an unaccustomed third, two points behind Leeds and eight behind United.

United States midfielder John Harkes marked his first match at Anfield with Wednesday's second half equaliser.

Pozzi upsets Krickstein to win Queensland Open

BRISBANE (R) — Unheralded Italian Gianluca Pozzi, ranked 136th in the world, upset third-seeded American Aaron Krickstein in the Queensland Open final to win his first ATP tournament Sunday.

The 26-year-old from Bari, who has no personal coach, no previous experience in a major final and had won only six matches on the professional circuit in 1991 before this tournament, beat the former top-10 player 6-3 7-6 in 98 minutes.

"Maybe now I have a chance to play Davis Cup," the left-hander said after his shock victory.

Pozzi said he was not nervous going into the final against the American, who is ranked 36 places ahead of him in the world.

"I had nothing to lose. I just tried to be as relaxed as possible," said Pozzi.

It was another nightmare ending for Krickstein, who was also runner-up last year, to compatriot Brad Gilbert.

"I started really badly," said Krickstein, who had not previously lost a set in the tournament.

"I was missing shots and I got a little tentative. I didn't have much confidence."

Meanwhile, colourful American Andre Agassi is set to outshine world number one Stefan Edberg as the main attraction when he makes his Australian tennis debut starting Monday.

Edberg is top seed in the strongest field in the Australian Indoor Championships' 19-year history — a line-up slightly weakened by last week's withdrawal of second seed and defending champion Boris Becker with a back injury.

But it is Agassi, the tennis rebel who won over the crowds on his Wimbledon debut this year, that the local fans want to see in his first Australian tournament.

Agassi, seeded four, has been drawn for a quarterfinal confrontation with the big-serving Yugoslav Goran Ivanisevic, who is seeded sixth.

It was a dream draw for organisers of the \$1 million tournament which, providing there are no upsets, would also see emerging American David Wheaton against third-seeded compatriot Pete Sampras, Edberg playing eighth seed Michael Chang and American Derrick Rostagno against number two seed Ivan Lendl.

"I couldn't have asked for better," said tournament director Graham Lovett. "I don't think there has been a stronger quarter-final field anywhere in the world this year and that includes Grand Slam events."

If Agassi wins through to the quarterfinals he will be playing the powerful Ivanisevic for the first time in a tournament.

Agassi is playing well and his stunning display in the recent U.S. Davis cup semifinal victory over Germany, which included a straight sets win against Wimbledon champion Michael Stich, has picked him up after a first round U.S. Open loss.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
A TAVANAN PRODUCTION
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JAMES JACOBY (1933-1991)

Both vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ Q J 10 7 6 3
♥ A 5
♦ A 4
♣ 10 5 3

EAST
♠ 9 8 4
♥ K Q J 10 8 7 2
♦ Q 2
♣ A K Q

SOUTH
♠ 5
♥ K J 10 9 8 7 6 5 3
♦ J 8 4

The bidding:
East South West North
1 ♠ 7 ♣ Pass Pass
2 ♦ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♣

One of the world's great players, James Jacoby of Richardson, Texas, died last month of cancer.

The son of the legendary Oswald Jacoby, Jim first represented the U.S. in the 1965 World Team Championship, losing narrowly to the Italian Blue Team. He was one of the original Dallas Aces and won several world team championships with that squad. His successes in national competition were too numerous to list here. On his father's death, Jim became the syndicated bridge columnist for NEA.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Welshman wins Berlin Marathon

BERLIN (R) — Britain's Steve Brace came off best in a tight finish with American Mark Platts to win the Berlin Marathon Sunday and boost his chances of a ticket to next year's Barcelona Olympics. The 30-year-old Welshman burst away from the South African-born Platts in the final 100 metres through the centre of the former West Berlin to finish in two hours 10 minutes 57 seconds. Los Angeles-based Platts clocked 2:11:01 with Pole Slawomir Gurny third in 2:11:45. Many of the British athletes viewed the race as a semi-official trial for Britain's Olympic team for Barcelona. British record holder Steve Jones, running his first Marathon for a year, was among the favourites.

Paris extends unbeaten run

PARIS (R) — Paris St Germain extended their unbeaten run to 12 matches with a goalless draw at struggling Rennes in the French soccer first division. The Paris club, the only unbeaten side in the league, are third, two points behind leaders Monaco and one point behind defending champions Marseille. Marseille moved within a point of Monaco by drawing 1-1 at Auxerre Friday. Monaco, cup winners and runners-up in the league last season, suffered their second defeat of the season when they lost 1-0 at Caen Thursday. Sochaux, who had a poor start, showed signs of recovery when they beat Nantes 3-1 Saturday, while bottom-placed Nancy went down 3-0 at St Etienne.

Real Madrid keeps up the pressure

MADRID (R) — Atletico Madrid retained their Spanish League soccer lead on goal difference Saturday, winning 2-0 at Real Sociedad. But rivals Real Madrid kept up the pressure with a 3-1 home win over Sevilla who are in third, while champions Barcelona continued an indifferent run, losing 2-1 on a sudden pitch at Sporting Gijon. Both Madrid teams have won all their four opening games, but Atletico have yet to concede a goal. Atletico had an easy time in San Sebastian against Real Sociedad's young, inexperienced players. Gabriel Moya opened the scoring after 40 minutes and Juan Vizzaino struck late in the game to ensure both points. Two goals in seven minutes in the first half by Emilio Butragueno set Real Madrid on their way. Sevilla's only reply came from Ignacio Conte in the 62nd minute.

Welcome Ncita retains IBF crown

SUN CITY, South Africa (AP) — Welcome Ncita of South Africa retained his International Boxing Federation (IBF) junior featherweight title by winning a split decision over Colombia's Sugar Baby Rojas. It was Ncita's fifth defence of the title, and his second fight with Rojas since February. Two of the three American judges gave the decision to Ncita 155-113. The third scored it 119-109 for Rojas.

Eintracht tops Bundesliga

BONN (R) — Eintracht Frankfurt fired three goals past Borussia Dortmund to take over the lead in the German Bundesliga on goal difference as title challengers VfB Stuttgart and Hamburg drew 1-1.

A first-half goal from midfielder Ralf Weber and second-half strikes from forward Lothar Sippel and German international Andy Moeller kept Eintracht's unbeaten run at home intact.

After 11 games, the Frankfurt side are level on 15 points with last week's leaders VfB, now second, and third-placed Bayer Leverkusen, who briefly took over the top spot Friday with a 2-0 win at lowly Bochum.

Hamburg are fourth, one point behind.

With 12-times champions Bayern Munich failing to stamp their usual authority on the league, the early-season title race has turned into a close battle at the top. Just three points separate the leading nine clubs.

Bayern, who drew 1-1 at local rivals Nuremberg Friday, are eighth, three points behind the leading trio.

Reigning champions Kaiserslautern beat struggling Borussia Moenchengladbach 4-2 at home Saturday to move up two places to fifth with 13 points.

Eintracht had to work hard against Borussia Dortmund in the first half before Weber struck a neat shot into the far corner of the net in the 21st minute.

But after the break Sippel scored with a neat chip from 15 metres out in the 53rd minute before midfielder Moeller struck his sixth goal of the season in the 76th.

VfB, without their injured German international Matthias Sammer in midfield, had to play the last eight minutes against Hamburg with 10 men after experienced defender Guntner Schaefer was sent off for a foul.

Hamburg started superbly by taking the lead with the goal from midfielder Harald Sporck in the fourth minute. But VfB defender Michael Prontzeck equalised with a free kick eight minutes before the interval.

Hamburg coach Gerd Volker Schock was disappointed with the result. "One point is too little bearing in mind how much we had of the game," Schock said. "We began well. It was only through a mistake in our defence that they managed to score the equaliser."

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Engage in any studies that will enable you to have a clearer perspective about the future. Explore secular interests that can bring you more peace and security. Be compassionate.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Dashing about seeing everyone possible is just great and you can join them in some interesting activities but be careful to avoid accidents.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) This is your day to add up your assets and your debts and get a good picture where you stand before going off on some new venture.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can do pretty much what you want today for you have the power of the planets with you to forge ahead to whatever new interests attract you.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Now you are able to get very excellent lunches where you are to go from here to be more successful and to bring some new light to obligations.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You are able to wind up some old business and come to a new understanding with partners and to get rid of some opposition that have come up.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have lots of odds and ends to tie up these days so get them behind you before you engage in any new projects that you have plans for.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Now you have a good chance to put in motion a plan that brings you the good will of those you like most and it would be perfect for you to cultivate friends.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your own family expects quite a good deal of you and it should not be that hard now for you to go along with what they expect of you.

Today's date: If your child were born today she or he has the wherewithal to move ahead that once they acquire the necessary knowledge for such growth and progress. A good education and foundation in ethical matters will make it possible for them to have an early success if this progeny learns to finish whatever they start to do.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

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Amman - Azra Hotel - 6th floor.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

STANLEY, DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN LOSE WEIGHT BY TAPING YOUR MOUTH SHUT?

FEED ME!

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumble words to enter each square, to form 10 ordinary words.

MAHRE
DAFEM
EVIDD
HYNTAS

THE FORTUNE-TELLER "PALMED" HERSELF OFF AS SOMEONE WHO KNEW HOW TO DO THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: POPPY GUMBO STICKY OXGEN
Answer: A bargain sale is a place where many a woman is exhausted before... HER MONEY IS

THE Daily Crossword

by Harold B. Counts

ACROSS
1 Explorer
2 Term
3 Writer Louis
10 Meditate deeply
14 22nd
15 Units of loudness
16 Under the covers
17 Hobo
20 John
21 Cartoonist Peter
22 Paradox
23 Blackboard
24 Mountain
25 Mountain
26 Mountain
27 off (for)
30 "My gal"
33 China, India et al.
34 Beautiful girl
35 Union letters
36 Doggers once
40 Fox
41 Keweenaw
42 Gen. Robt.
43 Noble time
44 Horace or Thomas
45 Casino
46 Employee
47 Capital
48 Brity drop
49 Asparagus stalk
52 Underneath
53 - West
55 Animated movie
60 "I cannot tell"
61 Pivotal bulb
62 Shredded
63 - off (for)
64 Uncovered
65 Hooder Kelly

DOWN
1 Singer Paul
2 007
3 Me Marley
4 Support
5 Houston team
6 Not a soul
7 Data
8 Vietnamese holiday
9 Harwood

10 Gay
11 Orchestra
12 Study
13 Singer Arnold
16 - and hearty
19 Musical show performers
28 Pierce
29 Explorer La
30 Close friend
31 Use a tub
32 A son of Jacob
33 City near Florence
34 Long hair
35 Florentine
36 Florentine duck
37 Fish that attaches to a shark
38 Alg. city
39 Talmudic
45 Yings (on)

46 Orient
47 Howled
48 US resort lake
49 Wood strip
50 Painted stick
51 Singer Adams
52 A's a wazzle stick
53 He
54 - corner
55 Pencil
56 Pencil
57 Person of wealth
58 Gallette
59 Taster

Peanuts

PSYCHIATRIC HELP 54
WELL, ANYWAY, THANK YOU
ONE OF THE HARDEST THINGS TO DO IS TO CHANGE DOCTORS.
I'D LIKE TO CHANGE DOCTORS, BUT I'M AFRAID.
AFRAID?
I'M AFRAID SHE'LL HIT ME WHEN MY BACK IS TURNED.

Andy Capp

DON'T BE LATE FOR DINNER, MURDER'S WAITING UP AGAIN!
IT'S GETTING TO BE EVERY DAY, ANDY. HOW DOES SHE GET AWAY WITH IT?
YOU'D NEVER BELIEVE IT!
TRY ME!
HER DOCTOR TOLD HER TO TAKE LONG WALKS BEFORE MEALS.
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

Mutt'n'Jeff

WELL, IF YOU LOVE THE GIRL, WHY DON'T YOU MARRY HER?
I CAN'T MARRY! YOU SEE I AM MARRIED!
YOU ARE MARRIED?
SH-SH-SH! DON'T TELL ANYONE! I KEPT IT A SECRET FOR YEARS!
YOU'RE MARRIED?
VEH, WELL, THAT IS, I'M NINETY-NINE PER-CENT MARRIED!
NINETY-NINE PER-CENT MARRIED?
VEH! I CAN STILL SEE THAT DAVE! THE CHURCH, THE FLOWERS, THE RING, THE LICENSE AND THE ORGAN PLAYING THE PREACHER AND ME!
BUT THE BRIDE, SHE NEVER SHOWED UP!

Financial
Markets
In co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (September 23-September 27, 1991)

AMMAN — As technical speculation dominated, the U.S. currency fluctuated within wide margins during the past week. Negative sentiment reflecting the dollar-mark yield differential continued to prevail, as the dollar ended the week an average of 1.02 per cent lower.

The bearish dollar sentiment that had started the previous Friday, after failure to breach resistance at 1.70 marks to the dollar, developed further Monday. Traders moved into the German currency early in the Far East market, but then shifted towards the Japanese currency in late Europe and early New York. Observers maintained that the perception was that the mark had risen enough while Japanese investors were expected to repatriate capital before the end of the first half of the fiscal year on Sept. 30. The U.S. currency thus closed at its lowest closing levels of the week against the yen at 132.74 yen, and against the pound sterling at 1.7435 dollars to the pound.

Tuesday the drop reversed sharply, ending a day of sharp fluctuations. Technically motivated players and speculators tried pushing the dollar through key support and resistance levels thus triggering stop-loss selling and buying. But the turning point was when corporate demand to buy cheap dollars, as the U.S. unit reached its low of 1.6625 marks, propelled the U.S. unit into an upward direction triggering a wave of stop-loss buying. The dollar closed at its highest closing levels against most major European currencies at 1.6872 marks and 1.7270 dollars to the pound.

Technical factors continued to dominate Wednesday, as the dollar probed resistance at 1.6850 marks, then support at 1.6770 marks, failing to decisively breach either. Observers maintained that failure to drop further was due to the existing short dollar positions in the market. But despite a smaller than expected drop of 3.8 per cent in August's Durable Goods Orders in the U.S., when expectations had indicated a 5.4 per cent decline, the U.S. unit nevertheless closed lower.

The dollar rebounded Thursday, rallying to its highest closing level against the Japanese currency at 133.93 yen. Month-end commercial demand as well as fear of renewed tensions between the U.S.A. and Iraq provided some support to the dollar.

Despite quiet trading Friday ahead of the month-end, quarter-end and the Japanese fiscal half-year-end, the dollar witnessed a sharp drop mainly against European currencies. Technically-driven traders had finally joined those focusing on the fundamentals and turned decisively negative towards the U.S. unit. The dollar was hurt by its drop through several support levels and by speculation that the U.S. President was about to announce large defence budget cuts. Fears were that the latter might weaken American economic activity on the one hand, and reduce federal borrowing on the other, hence causing downward pressure on dollar interest rates. The release of August's Personal Income and Personal Consumption Spending had little effect on the market. The former rose by 0.4 per cent while the latter rose by 0.1 per cent, in line with expectations.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	20/9/1991	27/9/1991	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.7310	1.7430	0.69 %
Deutsche Mark	1.6844	1.6699	-0.87 %
Swiss Franc	1.4755	1.4530	-1.55 %
French Franc	5.7510	5.6890	-1.09 %
Japanese Yen	134.40	133.20	-0.90 %

* USD Per STG

Euro-Currency Interest Rates*

Currency	20/9/1991	27/9/1991
U.S. Dollar	5.43	5.67
Sterling Pound	10.43	10.06
Deutsche Mark	9.12	9.31
Swiss Franc	8.00	7.62
French Franc	9.12	9.37
Japanese Yen	6.96	6.09

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 29/9/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.6860	.6880
Sterling Pound	1.1951	1.2011
Deutsche Mark	.4105	.4126
Swiss Franc	.4720	.4744
French Franc	.1205	.1211
Japanese Yen*	.5151	.5177
Dutch Guilder	.3642	.3660
Swedish Krona	.1116	.1122
Italian Lira*	.0549	.0552
Belgian Franc	.01993	.02003

* Per 100

Economists and bankers outline views on dinar value and future strength

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Economic analysts and bankers are unanimous in dismissing suggestions that the Jordanian dinar could decline in value against foreign currency in the short term. If anything, they say, the dinar could gain in value as the economic restructuring programme is consolidated and absorbed fully into the Kingdom's fiscal policies and the Middle East peace process continues on track.

Either way, banking executives are advising against any hoarding of currency, whether the Jordanian dinar or any foreign currency, in anticipation of any dramatic fluctuation.

"As far as I could see, Jordan has the ability to sustain the present stability of the dinar for a long time to come," said Abdullah Malki, president of the Association of Banks in Jordan.

It is an opinion widely shared by senior executives at Jordanian commercial banks as well as economic experts closely familiar with the Kingdom's economic policies.

"I cannot see any probability of the dinar declining in value in the near future," said Fakhri Bilbeisi, regional manager of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International which is undergoing a process of being converted into a totally Jordanian bank.

"The foreign exchange reserves of Jordan are pretty high," Mr. Bilbeisi noted. Indications are that the flow of foreign exchange will continue at a minimum level conducive to helping

the Kingdom's monetary authorities to sustain the value of the dinar even if Amman had to meet its foreign obligations, Mr. Bilbeisi said.

Bankers recalled that the authorities had recently relaxed the ceiling on resident foreign currency accounts and said that this was another sign of official confidence in Jordan's economic performance.

According to Mr. Bilbeisi, another major factor which will determine the strength of the dinar is the political situation.

"The confidence in Jordan's economic stability will grow along with the progress of the Middle East peace process, and, to a certain extent, this will boost the value of the Jordanian currency," he said.

Dr. Malki conceded that Jordan faces payments in foreign currency to come current in its foreign debt servicing before launching further talks on debt rescheduling, and may have to draw on its foreign exchange reserves to meet its obligations. But, he said, "It is not in the interest of the creditors to pressure Jordan" and prompt a financial crisis in the Kingdom.

According to a senior source, Jordan is seeking to convert the arrears in foreign debts and interests into rescheduled principal with a grace period of 10 years for repayment. No further details were immediately available, but success in arriving at such an arrangement will remove one of the major problems facing the Jordanian economy. By extension, it will also eliminate any possibility of a decline in the

dinar's value.

"I foresee that there will be a continued inflow of foreign currency in the form of assistance, particularly from non-Arab countries," said Dr. Malki. "In addition there will also be a lot of unrecorded flow of foreign currency into the country," he added.

Fahd Faneek, a noted Jordanian economic analyst, also ruled out any decline in the value of the dinar in the short term. "The Central Bank's reserves are high, and there is foreign exchange being brought into the country by returnees" from Kuwait and other Gulf states, he pointed out.

The political process leading to Arab-Israeli peace talks in October, said a senior manager at an international bank in Jordan, "if properly handled, will have a highly beneficial effect on the Jordanian economy and its currency."

The economic restructuring programme is not only being followed, but also altered and consolidated to take in new realities of the Jordanian economy," he said, adding that Arab-Israeli peace talks will help the Kingdom to go a long way ahead.

"All present signs are that the peace process is on track, and if the international community treats Jordan fairly in terms of economic approach and assistance, then there is no doubt that the dinar will stabilise further," added the executive, who preferred anonymity. "And this stability will reflect itself in the form of an increase in the value of the dinar against all foreign currencies."



Banking experts noted that there was very little difference in the official local rates for the dollar set on a daily basis by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) and the value that the greenback fetched on the black market.

The discernible difference in the official and unofficial markets has remained at less than one per cent since July, they noted.

The CBJ rate for the dollar Sunday was 686/688 fils, down from 692/695 fils two weeks ago. According to bankers the decline in the rate set by the CBJ does not really reflect the loss of value of the dollar in the last two weeks. But they explained that since the Jordanian dinar's exchange value is based on a currency of baskets, including the dollar and several European currencies, the fluctuations in the

rate of the dollar will not be fully seen reflected against the dinar. "If the dollar loses a little against the mark, for instance, the decline will not be seen fully in the local rates since the loss and gain are within the basket of currencies," Dr. Faneek explained.

The dollar was changing hands in the unofficial market Sunday for 688/692 fils and some dealers said the rate might go down further. At the peak of Jordan's economic crisis two years ago, the difference between the official and unofficial rates was as much as 20 per cent.

"There is an abundance of the dollar in the market and that accounts for the insignificant difference in the two rates," said a banking executive. "There is

a feeling that this abundance may not last long, but, by and large, it is my belief that there will be a minimum amount available in the parallel market always sufficient enough not to bring any significant pressure on the commercial banks."

According to officials, commercial banks are managing themselves well to meet the foreign currency needs of their clients and call on Central Bank for help very rarely.

In any event, noted a banker, "the Central Bank remains in a very strong position to intervene in the market wherever it finds it necessary to provide foreign currency. This has given a lot of confidence not only to Jordanian bankers but also to businessmen."

Moscow prints money at maximum capacity to avoid social explosion

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The Soviet Union prints money 24 hours a day, seven days a week despite the chaos that an oversupply of currency creates in an economy plagued by shortages of goods, a leading Soviet economist said.

"Everyone from miners to teachers wants raises and bonuses. If we don't do it, there will be a social explosion," Leonid Abalkin, economic adviser to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has said.

"We're printing money on three shifts, on weekends, and still we don't have enough time to finish the work. We're even running out of the special paper needed to print the money," Mr. Abalkin told a group of economists and executives.

Mr. Abalkin spoke hours after the U.S. Department of Agriculture tentatively decided to help the Soviets meet their winter food needs with credit guarantees. The Soviets have yet to request food assistance from the United States but have told the European Community that \$14.7 billion is needed.

"Consultation and technical help is needed more from the U.S. and western Europe," said Mr. Abalkin, director of the Institute of Economics at the USSR Academy of Sciences.

"But there are items such as medicine, industrial materials and foodstuffs, without which we won't survive (the winter)," he said.

Unless action is taken, the Soviet's 1991 debt may reach 300 billion rubles — 15 per cent of the USSR's gross national product, said Mr. Abalkin, who from June 1989 to March 1991 was deputy prime minister for econo-

mic reform. "This would be a nightmare," he said.

The number of rubles hoarded by citizens increased 40 per cent from 132 billion at the beginning of 1991 to 186 billion by Sept. 1.

The best way to reduce in-pocket rubles, Mr. Abalkin said, is to sell "alternative goods" — land, homes and shares in businesses.

Meanwhile, the United States and its allies are feverishly working behind the scenes on ways to help the Soviet Union avoid defaulting on its \$70 billion in foreign debt.

"It's being worked on," said a senior U.S. official, who declined to be named. "They know and we know they have a problem."

Once considered among the most creditworthy of borrowers, the Soviet Union is finding it increasingly difficult to keep up to date on its debt payments as its economy collapses, oil output slides and import needs, especially for food, grow.

The intensive discussions among major industrial nations on the Soviet Union's debt difficulties demonstrates the Group of Seven's (G-7) growing interest in the country's economic plight.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady has called for an early meeting of economic policymakers from the G-7 — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States — devoted exclusively to a discussion about the Soviet Union.

U.S. officials said that meeting could be held in Washington this week.

Mr. Brady is also pressing for Soviet representatives to attend the G-7's next formally scheduled

meeting, in Bangkok around Oct. 12, before the annual meeting there of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

Moscow has agreed to attend and U.S. officials said "there is no strong disagreement" within the G-7 to that proposal.

A senior U.S. official said Moscow was trying to calculate how much money it might need over the next four to five months to pay for essential imports and keep up with debt payments. He agreed that the financing gap might be around \$2 billion to \$5 billion.

The amount will depend in part on how quickly the Soviet Union's imports contract as its economy shrinks and on whether commercial banks will agree to keep trade credit lines in place.

U.S. officials were cautious about the help the United States and the G-7 might offer, but they ruled out a debt rescheduling. "We don't think it's the answer and neither do the Soviets," the senior U.S. official said.

Even the increasingly independent Soviet republics recognise the dangers of a debt default that would shut the country completely out of credit markets in the future.

"They aren't walking away from the debt," the senior U.S. official said. "They'll stand behind it."

Some German bankers have called on the G-7 to guarantee commercial bank loans to the Soviet Union or provide it with a bridging credit to help it through the credit crunch.

But there appears to be little

interest in the United States in providing the Soviet Union with any big line of credit.

Washington normally extends bridging loans only to a country that has already reached agreement with the IMF on an economic reform plan and is just awaiting formal approval of a fund loan.

The Soviet Union is not even a member of the IMF yet.

While the United States would not prevent Moscow joining the IMF, U.S. officials believe that membership talks could take time as France, Germany and some other nations would have to give up voting rights to make way for the Soviet Union.

U.S. officials expect Moscow to become a special associate of the IMF within days. That would give it access to the fund's expertise in drawing up reform plans, although not to IMF money.

Both the fund and the World Bank are expected to open offices in Moscow within the next two months.

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China to continue backing state firms despite their losses

BEIJING (R) — China's communist leaders have stressed there should be no change in a policy of supporting loss-making state industries, an important test of their degree of commitment to economic reform.

A five-day working conference, which was attended by virtually all senior leaders except paramount leader Deng Xiaoping discussed mainly how to rescue state industries that are sinking under a sea of debt.

There was no indication the Communist Party would allow them to be swept away by reforms that have transformed other areas of the economy.

Instead, the conference stressed well-worn themes from conservative ideologues in the party who believe the state sector should remain the backbone of the economy, with private enterprise playing a supporting role.

While urging large enterprises to put profits first and become responsible for their own losses, the meeting emphasised the pre-eminent role of Marxist ideology.

State enterprises are "important pillars of the national economy and the main source of state revenue," the New China News Agency said in its report on the conference.

"They have made and will continue to make tremendous contributions to the country's economic development and modernisation drive. Further raising their efficiency will play a decisive role

in strengthening the state's economic power," it pointed out.

The conference painted a rosy picture of China's economy, predicting a fairly good grain harvest despite floods this year that devastated major rice-growing provinces.

It concluded that industrial production was improving and prices were stable, the news agency said.

Chinese sources have said government departments and senior leaders are at odds over whether the boom-bust economy is overheating.

A policy of pumping money into state industries to pull the economy out of the doldrums has been responsible for a vicious cycle of inflation.

It has also produced mountains of unwanted goods in warehouses across the country.

Western diplomats said they believed China's constant power struggles were now centred on the economy with liberals arguing for drastic measures against the state industries that are draining national coffers.

The debate has been given added intensity since the collapse of communism in the Soviet Union that has left China's hardline leaders more nervous than ever about tinkering with their Marxist systems.

The working meeting is expected to pave the way for a Communist Party plenum to be convened soon.

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More fighting rages in Croatia despite efforts to reinforce truce

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia (R) — More fighting raged in breakaway Croatia Sunday despite efforts to strengthen a shaky ceasefire that brought Yugoslavia a week of relative calm.

Croatian Radio said the Croatian-held town of Nova Gradiska, on the main Belgrade-Zagreb motorway in the centre of the breakaway republic, was attacked with mortars and barrages from multiple rocket launchers.

The fighting followed fierce clashes Saturday around Pakrac, a Croatian stronghold near Nova Gradiska, and heavy shelling of the eastern Croatian town of Osijek, where the office of the mayor was set on fire.

The radio said four civilians were killed and 22 people including 12 Croatian National Guardsmen were wounded in the Pakrac area Saturday.

Croatian forces launched an offensive Saturday evening in the Zadar peninsula on the Adriatic coast after a village near the town of Benkovac came under mortar fire, the radio said.

Tanjug News Agency reported fierce artillery duels and fighting Sunday near Sibenik, another Adriatic port further south.

The fighting near the coast followed a Tanjug report Saturday that the army was ready for an agreement to pullout of barracks in Zadar and Sibenik besieged by Croatian forces.

But the agency said Sunday that Croatian representatives in Zadar never turned up to negotiate the expected pullout.

Army withdrawals last week from two besieged barracks, in Sinj, near the coast and at Vinkovci in eastern Croatia, raised hopes for a limited disengagement of forces.

But as new fighting erupted the army accused Croatia Saturday of violating the ceasefire by continuing to blockade and attack military bases.

"Units, commands and institu-



Two Yugoslav sisters with children and luggage, walk away from Osijek to the Hungarian border.

tions in the area of the fifth military district (which includes most of Croatia) are still under blockade and attacks on military facilities also continue," Tanjug quoted an army statement as saying Saturday.

It said Croatian forces were violating a truce agreed last Sunday by Yugoslav Defence Minister General Veljko Kadijevic and Croatian President Franjo Tudjman.

"The sources and routes of regular supply, medical care and evacuation are blocked," the army said.

The fresh round of fighting forced the International Red Cross to suspend operations in Croatia until it received guarantees of safety from the warring sides.

Three Red Cross workers were injured in Croatia Friday when their vehicle was hit by bullets and crashed into a ditch.

According to Croatian figures, more than 1,000 people have been killed in the fighting since Croatia declared independence on June 25 and its 600,000-strong Serbian minority armed to fight it.

Simon Smits, head of a European Community (EC) monitoring team in Croatia, said uncontrolled forces were responsible for the fighting in central Croatia.

Mr. Smits said EC monitors wanted to visit Pakrac Saturday but did not receive safety guarantees.

"The problem is there are forces on the Croatian side and the Serbian (rebel) side that are not fully under the control of those who signed the (ceasefire) agreement," he told reporters in Zagreb.

He described Friday's attack on a Red Cross convoy as "madness."

Francois Robady, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Zagreb, said a nurse and two male Red Cross workers, all Swiss nationals, suffered cuts and bruises after their vehicle was attacked.

They were with a convoy of seven buses travelling to Pakrac to rescue 270 people, mostly psychiatric patients, trapped for three days in the basement of a hospital hit by artillery fire.

"The Red Cross emblem is not recognised here and is not respected," Mr. Robady said.

Salvador colonel guilty in Jesuit massacre

SAN SALVADOR (AP) — A jury has convicted an army colonel of the 1989 murders of six Jesuits, their housekeeper and her daughter in a landmark human rights case that strained U.N.-Salvadoran relations.

The jury acquitted eight other military men charged with killing the priests, but convicted a lieutenant of murdering the housekeeper's daughter.

The conviction of Col. Guillermo Benavides marked the first time that a member of the military was tried and found guilty of a human rights violation in nearly 12 years of civil war marked by repeated accusations of government torture, kidnapping and murder.

The Nov. 16, 1989 massacre of the Jesuits was considered a test for El Salvador's justice system. The United States, which financed the government's war effort, made prosecuting the case a condition for continued aid.

Jesuit and U.S. observers expressed mixed sentiments about the verdict, saying they believed that higher-ranking officers also should be charged.

"I'm not overly bothered by the acquittal of those of lower rank, though I believe there was sufficient evidence to convict them," said Father Jose Maria Tojeira, Jesuit provincial for Central America.

"I believe it is correct that the jury placed the blame going upward in rank, and we should keep looking up the ranks for more of those responsible," Mr. Tojeira said.

The three-woman, tow-man jury — who were kept hidden for fear of reprisals — told 4th Criminal Court Judge Ricardo Zamora their verdict after a three-day trial and 5 1/2 hours of deliberations.

The defendants, wearing green fatigues with their insignia of rank and unit, listened to the verdicts sitting in a row before the judge, prosecutors, defence lawyers and about 100 spectators.

Seoul papers report protest in North Korea

SEOUL (R) — South Korean newspapers said Sunday that an anti-government demonstration occurred last week in Communist North Korea, the second such protest reported in a month.

The influential Chosun Ilbo and other newspapers quoted a government official as saying the information came from a South Korean trading company which sells marine products to North Korea through a Chinese middleman.

According to the middleman, the protest broke out last Friday in the city of Sinuiju, on the border with China.

There was a similar riot there before. But the riot this time was bigger than the previous one, the newspapers quoted the Chinese businessman as saying.

The newspaper reports gave no further details.

On Friday, the Japanese daily Sankei Shimbun said about 4,000 people in Sinuiju demonstrated on Aug. 27 against President Kim Il-Sung, who has ruled the North since the state was set up in 1948.

Army units and police peacefully dispersed the crowd to disperse the demonstration.

South Korean and Japan-based analysts say economic conditions in the North are worsening following the collapse of communism in the Soviet Union, one of North Korea's main backers.

Factories are working at only 40 per cent of capacity because of shortages of parts and raw materials, they say.

Meanwhile, a senior North Korean official said Sunday that his country may accept international inspection of its nuclear facilities

if the United States withdraws its nuclear weapons from South Korea.

The remarks by Kim Yong-Sun, secretary of the Central Committee of the ruling Workers' Party, were reported by the official North Korea Central News Agency monitored in Tokyo.

North Korea, widely suspected of trying to develop nuclear weapons, reacted quickly and positively Saturday to the major nuclear weapons cuts announced by U.S. President George Bush.

It has repeatedly refused to accept international inspection unless U.S. bases in South Korea are also scrutinised.

Mr. Kim proposed talks with the United States on the question of withdrawing U.S. nuclear weapons from South Korea, and indicated this would pave the way for Pyongyang to permit an international inspection.

He said the United States should also discuss with Pyongyang the question of guaranteeing the non-use of nuclear weapons against North Korea.

South Korea President Roh Tae-Woo said earlier Sunday that the United Nations Security Council could help force North Korea to accept international inspection.

"If the North does not give up its plans to develop nuclear weapons, we can't rule out the possibility that the northern nuclear facilities will be forcibly inspected by a resolution of the United Nations Security Council," Mr. Roh was quoted as saying by South Korea's Yonhap News Agency.

Polls show British parties neck-and-neck

LONDON (R) — Prospects for a November general election in Britain appeared to recede with the publication of a series of opinion polls mostly showing the ruling Conservatives neck-and-neck with the Labour Party.

The surveys appearing in British Sunday newspapers gave Prime Minister John Major's Conservative Party between 37 and 40 per cent while Labour under opposition leader Neil Kinnock polled between 38.5 and 41 per cent.

The centrist Liberal Democrats were rated at between 13 and 17 per cent.

The Conservatives were ahead in two of the polls, Labour ahead in three and the two parties tied in one.

Mr. Major does not have to call an election until next July but a better performance by the Conservatives in opinion polls recently led to speculation an election might be imminent.

Aquino warns against abrupt U.S. pullout

MANILA (R) — Philippine President Corason Aquino Sunday warned against an abrupt U.S. military pullout from the country, and bar girls marched outside Subic Naval Base to protest against a Senate decision evicting American forces.

Mr. Aquino appealed to the Senate to give U.S. troops sufficient time to withdraw, saying a sudden pullout would displace thousands of Filipinos working at Subic and worsen the sufferings of communities around the base.

"All I am asking is let us not do things abruptly... who can our people run to, where will they seek help?" Mrs. Aquino said, speaking in her weekly radio-television talk show.

At Olango City, about 5,000 Filipinos, including hundreds of bar girls, braved heavy rains and marched outside the naval dockyard to protest against the Senate's Sept. 16 vote rejecting a new military bases treaty with the United States.

The demonstrators called for

the holding of a national referendum to decide the fate of U.S. forces, saying a majority of Filipinos favoured keeping them in the country.

The Senate action would mean closure of the strategic U.S. navy repair yard and end nearly a century-long U.S. military presence in the former colony. Washington has agreed to withdraw from the Clark Air Base which was damaged by the eruptions of the Mount Pinatubo volcano last June.

Jazz great Miles Davis dies at 65

LOS ANGELES (R) — "Cool Jazz" founder Miles Davis, described by friends and jazz critics as one of the new "unmistakable individualists" of music, died in hospital Saturday at age 65.

Davis, famed for his muted trumpet playing died at St. John's Hospital in nearby Santa Monica of pneumonia, respiratory failure and a stroke, said hospital spokeswoman Pat Kirk. Davis, who had a long history of poor health, had been admitted to the hospital a month ago.

"In the history of the music, there have been a few unmistakable individualists — musicians like Lester Young, Louis Armstrong and Charlie Parker, and Miles is clearly one of those," said jazz critic Nat Hentoff of New York City's Village Voice weekly.

"He had an extraordinary lyrical and yet very surprising style — it was extremely personal, very subtle — yet very compelling."

Davis attributed much of his ill health to his three years as a heroin addict, an addiction he kicked off turkey in 1954.

Davis's brother and sister were at his bedside when he died, Kirk said.

The spokeswoman said his hospital admission chart listed him as single. The trumpeter married his third wife, actress Cicely Tyson, in 1982 and although the couple separated there had been no reports of a divorce.

Ira Gitler, a New York jazz critic and columnist who wrote the liner notes for many of Davis's albums, said, "Miles made the trumpet his own. He was one

of the most influential players around."

"He was not only a brilliant musician but (a) very astute band leader. He was a leader, a catalyst. He knew how to put his finger on something new."

Davis, son of a well-to-do dentist in East St. Louis, Illinois, was given a trumpet by his father when he was 13.

While still in high school he played in local bands led by such jazz notables as Billy Eckstine and Benny Carter and shared solos with saxophone great Charlie Parker.

By the late 1940s, now in New York, he had developed his unique style of muted underplaying that blended sound and silence to create a teasing, tension-building music.

COLUMN

Ex-screen goddess tells MPs to stop worshipping her

NEW DELHI (R) — A former screen goddess, fed up with being worshipped in the south Indian state assembly she now rules, reprimanded deputies Saturday for routinely referring to her during debates as "the all-powerful." Many impoverished rural voters in film-crazy Tamil Nadu, where heroine Jayalalitha won a landslide state election victory in June after starring in 117 movies, refer to her as "the guardian angel" or "the primordial power." The Press Trust of India said her supporters in the assembly called her Parasakthi, "the all-powerful," once too often. Ms. Jayalalitha, 43, told them to shorten their speeches by dropping the adulation and confining their remarks to their voters' problems, the agency said.

Boy declared dead, then revived

NEW HAVEN (AP) — A 17-year-old boy who passed out after drinking 10 glasses of gin was declared dead in front of friends and family, and lived to tell about it. "I'm glad I'm here. I don't care about anything else," Troy Smith said, standing outside his home. Smith passed out at his aunt's apartment while playing a drinking game with friends last weekend, relatives said. When he didn't regain consciousness after 12 hours, a cousin carried him outside for air and called paramedics. When the paramedics found no pulse or vital signs, they declared him dead and pulled a blanket over his head, authorities said. Moments later, as his family yelled at paramedics to do more, Smith began to stir. He regained consciousness about five hours later at a hospital. Acute alcohol poisoning can depress the nervous system to the point where it may be difficult to determine whether a victim has died, said Dr. John Shriver, head of the emergency department at Yale-New Haven Hospital. Smith said all he can recall is winning about \$80 in bets by downing drinks and then waking up in the hospital with a bad hangover.

Zoo gets royal helping hand

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — A nature-loving Malaysian monarch has ordered the government to stop a golf course project that threatened to pollute Malaysia's National Zoo, the New Straits Times said Sunday. The ruler of Selangor state, neighbouring capital Kuala Lumpur, felt development near the zoo would harm the ecology and water catchment areas, the paper said. Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Idris Al Marhum Sultan Hishamuddin Alam Shah is one of nine constitutional monarchs who reign over their respective states and take turns to serve as Malaysia's king for five-year periods.

Couple discover bogus priest married them

PAVIA, Italy (R) — The "seven-year itch" took on a different meaning for an Italian couple who discovered their marriage was invalid because it had been performed by a bogus priest. The couple, identified only as Franca and Luciano in Italian newspapers, saw a magazine article about a man wanted by police for fraud. They recognised him in a photo as "Father Sandro," the "priest" who officiated at their Roman Catholic wedding seven years ago in northern Italy. Police said the man, Rosario Nastasi, had a long record of masquerading as a public official or priest in various parts of Italy. A local church official told the couple, who have a three-year-old son, they would have to get married again.

Python swallows pride over disputed goat

NEW DELHI (R) — A python which bit off more than it could chew was recovering Friday from surgery after trying to swallow a goat, the United News of India said. The agency said the three-metre snake panicked at the sight of an advancing crowd of villagers alerted by the goat's owner and tore its throat while trying to regurgitate the beast. The villagers near the town of Chhoti Udepur in western Gujarat state reported the incident to forest authorities, who rushed the python to a veterinary hospital for surgery last Tuesday. It was now recovering under observation at a nearby zoo, the agency quoted a forestry official as saying. There was no news of the goat.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Mrs. Marcos may return next Friday

HONOLULU, Hawaii (R) — Former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos is ready to return to her homeland next Friday to face charges of tax evasion and fraud, she told reporters Saturday. Dressed in a black gown, which she said was in respect for her late husband, former President Ferdinand Marcos, Mrs. Marcos said she would meet the deadline for her return laid down by Philippine President Corason Aquino. Mrs. Aquino had given her a "one-way permit" to return to Manila by Oct. 4, she said. But Mrs. Marcos expressed the hope that Mrs. Aquino would extend the deadline, in which case she would return on a date agreeable to both sides, preferably in December. Mrs. Marcos said she had asked Mrs. Aquino for an extension but had not had a reply. The Aquino administration had refused to allow Mrs. Marcos to bring home the remains of her husband, who died on Sept. 28, 1989, in Honolulu and is buried in a refrigerated crypt on a hillside near the city. At a news conference at her Honolulu home on the second anniversary of his death, Mrs. Marcos said she still hoped to have her husband buried in Manila.

Haughey could face challenge

DUBLIN (R) — Prime Minister Charles Haughey, known as the great survivor in Irish politics, is facing the most serious challenge to his leadership in years. A weekend opinion poll showed his popularity has slumped, four backbenchers in his party have come out in open revolt and the government has been rocked by a string of financial scandals. Political commentators forecast that Mr. Haughey, who fought off three challenges to his leadership in the 1980s, now risked falling prey to an insider "palace coup" like the one that toppled British leader Margaret Thatcher last year. Front runner to replace Mr. Haughey is Finance Minister Albert Reynolds, a former ballroom impresario who has openly acknowledged his interest in the premier's job — even at the time of record high unemployment, stagnant economic growth and budget overruns. A poll in the Irish Independent showed just 35 per cent satisfied with Mr. Haughey's performance, his lowest rating since returning to power in 1987.

Japan typhoon death toll rises to 46

TOKYO (R) — The body of a crewman missing from a capsized South Korean freighter was recovered Sunday as the death toll from powerful typhoon Mireille rose to 46, Japanese police and coastguard officials said. They said the body was found off Hakata, a port about 900 kilometres southwest of Tokyo. All 10 crew members of the 270-tonne No. 7 Jinyung were thrown overboard when it capsized in high seas Friday. Three are still unaccounted for. Typhoon Mireille has been Japan's most destructive storm this year. Five people, including the three South Koreans, are missing, 777 people were injured, 724 houses were destroyed or damaged and more than 10,000 homes flooded. Media reports said the typhoon caused power failures affecting nearly six million homes throughout Japan.

1,000 Bangladeshis marooned

KA (AP) — Renewed flooding in the north of this "crisis" nation stranded at least 500,000 people, as the toll from an outbreak of diarrhoea rose to 727, news reports Sunday. Four rivers swollen by torrential rains swamped by Panna district, 120 kilometres north of Dhaka, the United Nations of Bangladesh news agency quoted district officials as saying. They said the waters washed away highways and disrupted transportation, the agency reported. At least 12 new deaths were reported from diarrhoea, which has been sweeping across the north since torrential rains lashed the region in the beginning of September, the news agency said. The deluge has killed at least 250 people since Sept. 1 and forced tens of thousands of villagers out of their homes — including at least 50,000 in the northwestern Sylhet district on Friday.

12 rebels wounded in Sri Lankan raid

COLOMBO (R) — Twelve Tamil rebels were injured when government aircraft bombed their hideout in eastern Sri Lanka, a military spokesman said Sunday. He said two other rebel camps were bombed Saturday in Batticaloa district. The spokesman said he was checking a report that guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) shot dead two men from a rival rebel group in an ambush in northern Vavuniya Saturday.

'Moscow offered to swap Wallenberg with Soviet spy'

MOSCOW (AP) — An investigator into the fate of Raoul Wallenberg said Saturday he had new information on Sweden's rejection of an apparent offer by the Soviets to produce the long-missing diplomat who saved thousands during World War II. Canadian lawyer Irwin Cotler said the Soviets, who had reported Wallenberg died in 1947, told the go-between in a proposed prisoner swap that almost certainly involved the Swedish diplomat. "We don't trade corpses," indicating Wallenberg was still alive. Mr. Cotler said it was incredible that Sweden never pursued the offer.

"It is shocking to think that Wallenberg might have been released and returned to humanity in 1966, and it is dramatically revealing — but the Soviet Union's own evidentiary hand — that Wallenberg had not died in 1947," he said.

The Soviets arrested Wallenberg in Budapest in January 1945 and his whereabouts were never revealed until 1957, when the Soviets reported he died of a heart attack in a Moscow prison in 1947. The claim has been widely disputed by Soviet witnesses who reported seeing Wallenberg alive in prisons as late as the 1960s.

Cotler is chairman of the Soviet International Commission on the Fate and Whereabouts of Raoul Wallenberg, which met a Soviet inter-ministerial group including KGB officials Thursday and is expected to hold further talks this week. A Swedish-Soviet working group also investigating Wallenberg's fate met separately with the Soviet group Thursday.

Wallenberg, who would be 79 if he were alive, rescued tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews from the Nazis by sheltering them in protective houses flying the Swiss flag.

Mr. Cotler had disclosed the swap report in May, but an interview with him Saturday provided the first details.

Mr. Cotler repeated that earlier this year Swedish lawyer Karl-Gustav Svingel said he was approached by the Soviets in 1966. Mr. Svingel said the Soviets offered to trade an unidentified Swede for the Swedish Soviet spy Stig Wennerstrom, according to Mr. Cotler.

Mr. Svingel, who lives in Berlin, had been engaged in East-West swaps for 30 years.

Mr. Cotler said Wallenberg was the only Swede known to have disappeared in Soviet prisons at that time.

Mr. Wennerstrom was convicted of four counts of treason in 1964 for betraying military secrets of Sweden, the United States and NATO. He confessed to having been a NAZI spy and spy for the Soviets since 1948.

Mr. Cotler said Wallenberg's brother, Guy Von Dardel, who was in Moscow for Thursday's meetings, told him that Mr. Svingel asked the Soviets the identity of Swede.

"The Soviets replied, 'It is the Swede you are looking for,' Mr. Svingel then said that the only Swede he knew to be in the hands of the Soviets was Raoul Wallenberg, but that he had died. Whereupon the Soviets replied, 'We don't trade corpses,'" Mr. Cotler quoted Mr. Von Dardel as saying.

Ministers to try to reverse EC out of political union blind alley

BRUSSELS (R) — EC foreign ministers meet Monday to try to salvage their talks on political union in Europe, bogged down over a new Dutch blueprint.

Two thirds of the 12 EC states told the Netherlands at a stormy meeting of envoys last Thursday that they would rather go back to earlier proposals by Luxembourg, the previous holder of the EC's rotating presidency.

EC governments remain deeply split on the powers of the European Parliament, a defence role and other trappings of an embryonic federal union.

But most states, with Britain and France in the lead, agreed Thursday that the time available to strike a deal — 10 weeks until a December summit — is too short to start studying a new draft. "They sounded as if they

meant it. We will discover on Monday whether they did," a British official said.

Monday's ministerial meeting will provide another illustration of how the EC, until now largely an economic and trading bloc, is reaching out into new territory even before a political union treaty has been signed.

The meeting will adjourn in mid-morning to allow foreign and defence ministries of the Western European Union (WEU), a defence body grouping nine of the EC states, to consider various options for sending military forces to police a ceasefire in Yugoslavia.

Diplomats said the discussion will be largely hypothetical, since the conditions laid down by the EC for sending troops are far from being met despite a lull in

the fighting between the federal army, Serbian guerrillas and breakaway Croatia.

The three non-WEU EC states, Greece, Ireland and Denmark, will attend the session as observers along with European NATO members Turkey and Norway, who are not in the EC — a clear demonstration of how Europe's old neat economic, political and military structures have become increasingly blurred.

The EC meeting will also try finally to agree an offer of improved trade access for agricultural products to Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia under new association agreements.

Diplomats said they believed France, which blocked the new offer at the last meeting this month under pressure from its farmers, might now accept it pro-

viding there were safeguards against fraud and extra shipments of meat into the EC.

Ministers are also due to stage the first formal talks between the EC and Turkey, although Greece's dispute with Turkey over Cyprus could yet cast a shadow over the meeting.

The heavy thunderclouds, however, will be hovering over the political union talks which start in the afternoon.

The Netherlands, buffeted by developments outside the Community since it took over the EC's helm in July, appears unwilling to face the humiliation of withdrawing its paper.

"An entirely new proposal is not to be expected from us," the Dutch News Agency (ANP) quoted Prime Minister Ruud

Lubbers as saying Friday.

A spokesman for Mr. Lubbers said the Hague would only change its paper if a clear majority demanded it at the summit in the Dutch town of Maastricht, where an agreement is supposed to be signed.

One way out of the stalemate, which threatens to scupper all a deal on Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), would be to retain the Luxembourg text as the basis for negotiations and use the Dutch draft for new ideas that can be grafted onto the earlier plan.

Even then, diplomats say, hammering out a deal in time for Maastricht will be extremely difficult because EC governments still have radically different aspirations for political union.

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